

## News

U of A shaves heads to fight cancer, raise money · 3

## Opinion

All we want for Christmas: the best gifts we'll never get to receive · 10

## Arts

Popping up for design students · 22

December 3rd, 2014 ■ Issue No. 18 ■ Volume 105

# THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## New fitness centre makes grand opening



**Richard Catangay-Liew**

NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

Jerry Osolu won't miss the University of Alberta's old, stuffy and dimly lit Fitness and Lifestyle Centre (FLC).

He — like many frequent FLC users — welcomes the new, spacious FLC in the Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre, which officially opened its doors on Dec. 1.

The new centre showcases \$900,000 in new fitness equipment, including 20 treadmills, 23 ellipticals, 16 spin bikes, nine upright bikes, three recumbent bikes and eight rowers. In total, there are 175 pieces of equipment in the new facility.

Osolu will spend much of his workout in the two new dumbbell and barbell areas and 17 strength racks and cages. But the new FLC currently lacks one crucial element to his workout — mirrors.

"People wanna see their gains while they're working out, right?" Osolu said, after his first lift session in the new FLC.

He added that he feels like there aren't enough weights in the new centre, but realizes that areas of the new FLC are still under construction and acknowledged there's "still room for improvement."

FLC Supervisor David Lyle said the feedback thus far has been great, and they are aware of most of the common issues — such as lack of mirrors and clocks — and are working to resolve them as more of the facility is being assembled.

The old FLC saw approximately 2,300 people per day, and Lyle expects the new facility to serve upwards of 4,000 people per day. In the past, Lyle found people would enter the old FLC, find out it's too busy, then leave. But with twice the equipment and floor space in the new FLC, Lyle said there should be lots of room for fitness fanatics to break a sweat.

PLEASE SEE PAW CENTRE • PAGE 23

# The Gateway's

## CHARITABLE GIFT GUIDE • PG 15

**OUR LIST OF IMPACTFUL GIFTS  
TO GIVE THIS YEAR (THAT YOUR  
FRIENDS WILL ACTUALLY LIKE)**

"WHO NEEDS TINDER  
WHEN MY GPA KEEPS  
GOING DOWN ON ME."

**#3LF**  
page 9



THE

gateway

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colophon

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haiku

We'll miss you, Shannon  
Sorry for all of the jokes  
We all still love you :)

Think of one later  
Just trying to fill up space  
Oh wait, I just did!

Andrew hates haikus  
Nah, they're not really that bad  
Andrew's just stupid



THE gateway ONLINE

streeters

As you may have heard,  
some people do nice things!  
WE ASKED...

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY Oumar Salifou + Kevin Schenk

What's something nice a stranger did for you?



Emily Speur ARTS V

"Someone bought coffee for me once. I forgot my debit card and they bought it for me instead, so that was really nice."



Daniel Jensen PHYS ED IV

"A guy with a snow blower on the block came around and did some snow blowing all around the sidewalk and even on the road next to vehicles that were stuck."



Fatme Elkadry ARTS I

"University Wellness Services was giving out lollipops and cards in CCIS."



Sara Al-kayssi SCIENCE I

"Someone gave me a 'You rock!' sticky note at the library."



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Christmas is almost here!

RANDY SAVOIE

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t @DEVANEYS

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TUESDAY



AFTER 4 PM  
PABST JUG & PIZZA  
\$20

WEDNESDAY



AFTER 4 PM  
WINGS  
1/2 PRICE

THURSDAY



POUTINE  
\$4

FRIDAY



BONELESS WINGS  
\$6



# News

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## U of A shaves heads to fight cancer, raise money

**Richard Catangay-Liew**  
NEWS EDITOR ■ @RICHARDCLIEW

Morgan Redmond hated her hair.

She was tired of her 17-inch brunette locks constantly getting in her face. She's chopped off significant amounts of her hair before, but she finally had enough.

After narrowly missing the deadline to sign up for last year's annual University of Alberta Engineering Head Shave, Redmond couldn't wait for this year's rendition of the popular fundraiser. Her mother tried to talk her out of it, but once Redmond officially registered, her mom gave up telling her not to do it and focused on helping her raise money.

\$893 and several months later, Redmond finally got her wish.

■ **“You’re always really inspired by someone who has dealt with cancer.”**

NANA THAVER  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ALBERTA CANCER FOUNDATION

More than 40 participants had their heads shaved on Nov. 27 at the Maier Learning Centre in an effort to raise money and awareness for the Alberta Cancer Foundation. The 11th Annual U of A Engineering Head Shave was a partnership between the U of A's Engineering Students' Society and the Alberta Cancer Foundation, with all proceeds benefiting Alberta's Cross Cancer Institute. Prior to this year's event, the annual head shave raised more than \$270,000. Most participants



**HAIR-RAISING FUNDRAISER** More than 40 students donated their hair during the 11th Annual Engineering Head Shave.

KEVIN SCHENK

at the head shave are male, but this year saw three females — including Redmond — contribute to the charity event.

Although Redmond always imagined what she would look like without hair, she never thought about the actual process.

“It feels weird,” a teary-eyed Redmond said, as she ran her trembling hands through her new buzz cut.

“One of the (clippers) was metal, so it was cold.

“I always wanted to shave my head, and this was a good cause to do it for.”

Redmond was one of the top fundraisers at this year's event, which raised a grand total of \$12,559.97.

Alberta Cancer Foundation Development Officer Nana Thaver, who graduated from the U of A in

2008, said it's impressive to come back to campus and see passionate supporters from the campus community “blow it out of the water.”

Thaver remembers her grandfather having lung cancer when she was growing up. Seeing the changes in cancer prevention, screening, research and treatments from the mid-1990s to now is “amazing,” she said.

“I think we're all inspired by somebody whether you're shaving your head or choosing your profession,” Thaver said of her involvement with the Alberta Cancer Foundation. “You're always really inspired by someone who has dealt with cancer.”

For Engineering Head Shave Co-ordinator Bill Tran, that inspiration was a close family friend who passed away due to the disease. He said he's shaving his head for his friend, and everybody else affected.

“Just knowing how many people are affected by cancer themselves and being able to partake in the commitment to a better future is some I want to do,” Tran said. “Just being able to help here in Alberta ... I think that's our main goal and just being able to contribute to so many lives.”

Tran, who shaved his head for the first time last year, said he enjoys “the flow” of long hair. But he added that once it's gone, he doesn't miss it and welcomes the “liberating feeling” of having a freshly shaved head.

Students' Union President William Lau, who raised \$1,875 for the charity event this year, will be stashing his “strong hold” hair putty and “mega hold” hair spray and instead be looking for a new toque to hide his new, bald head. While Lau said he'll miss running his hands through his thick black hair and “looking an inch taller,” he embraces the long-lasting effect donations can make on cancer and cancer research.

“Hair will grow back,” Lau said. “But those we lose to cancer, those we loved so much, won't.”

## UAlberta students Write for Rights

**Collins Maina**  
STAFF REPORTER ■ @COLLINS\_MANIA

Words can be more powerful than people think.

The University of Alberta and Edmonton Amnesty International chapters teamed up for the Write for Rights campaign on Nov. 30. The Write for Rights campaign is an Amnesty International initiative that occurs around the world, which urges people to write letters to show solidarity for those suffering from human rights abuses.

The event aimed to raise public awareness of such cases at four locations across Edmonton which included Good Earth Café by the U of A.

Amnesty International Edmonton Event Coordinator Jonn Kmech noted that the campaign is usually linked with International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10. He said the two chapters decided to do it on Nov. 30 to encourage student participation so it wouldn't fall in the middle of final exams.

This year, the global campaign is focusing on nine cases that people can support. This includes the case of Saudi Arabian online activist Raif Badawi, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for blogging.

Kmech said they are writing to pressure government figures and

politicians to either release political prisoners, get them medical attention or access to a lawyer.

“Letter writing is a very direct form of action,” Kmech said. “You are able to help somebody across the world, and it has been shown over the years to work.”

Amnesty researchers have found to have a one-third success rate with letter writing, he said. Thus, the prisoner is either released, their conditions in prison are improved, or they are taken off of death row.

Sometimes, people can write directly to the person in the prison, which could raise their spirits, Kmech said.

“Sometimes its not a big win, but its a little victory, and those are important,” he said.

But this event is not just constant letter writing, Kmech said, as it also gives people a chance to socialize and make connections.

U of A Amnesty International President Samina Sana said they defend human rights by lobbying through writing letters to politicians, governments and individuals.

“Its very much this idea of connecting with the world in a more empathetic way,” she said.

Sana said that writing letters is powerful as it's the least that society can do to support people in

such cases.

One of the long running cases is aimed at ending violence against aboriginal females. The U of A chapter has been sending letters to government officials the last four years to pressure them to look into the public inquiry and “see the big picture,” Sana said.

■ **“Letter writing is a direct form of action. You are able to help somebody across the world and it has been shown over the years to work.”**

JOHN KMECH  
WRITE FOR RIGHTS EVENT COORDINATOR, AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL EDMONTON CHAPTER

The U of A's Amnesty International chapter was unable to carry out a campus or citywide campaign in 2013. As a result, she hoped that this year's campaign would broaden students' scope of thinking and enable them to look at problems that aren't just their own.

“I want to encourage a campus that is more empathetic and connected to the idea of human rights,” she said. “I feel like it is something that needs to be talked about more often.”

## news briefs

COMPILED BY **Richard Catangay-Liew**

### Alberta fiscal update raises questions about post-secondary funding

The Alberta government is forecasting a \$933 million year-end surplus — a \$154 million drop from the \$1.1 billion that was forecasted earlier this year — which could change the fiscal environment for post-secondary institutions.

The drop in projected surplus is due to declining oil prices, as oil went from US\$100.08 a barrel to US\$75 a barrel, a decrease in 8 per cent.

Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education Public Affairs Officer Paul Oss said in an e-mail that the government is currently in the planning process for next year's budget, and no decisions regarding post-secondary funding have been made. He added that Alberta's economy is subject to market swings and changes with the global economy.

“We are facing a very challenging fiscal reality with the price of oil being where it is,” Oss said. “I can say that we remain committed to ensuring Alberta's post-secondary system delivers a high quality education that gives graduates the knowledge and skills they need to be successful

and competitive.”

Students' Union Vice-President (External) Navneet Khinda recalled Premier Jim Prentice pledged to restore the remaining funds cut from Alberta's post-secondary sector in the 2013 budget if he was elected as Leader of the Progressive Conservatives and Premier of Alberta.

She said she's worried that the government won't be able to keep that promise with oil prices in flux.

“It seems like the promise to restore funding from the 2013 cuts won't actually have follow through,” Khinda said. “That's really disappointing to us.”

In 2013, post-secondary sector faced \$147 million in budget cuts, which forced institutions across the province to cut programs and staff.

Post-secondary institutions are also waiting to hear back from the government on the market modifier — or tuition increase — proposals.

Khinda said the SU and the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) will continue to lobby and put pressure on the ministry to get politicians on the record regarding the upcoming provincial budget, which will be announced in March, 2015.

“We keep seeing this rhetoric and we keep seeing these broken promises,” Khinda said.



# U of A Plant Genome Initiative harvests one-of-a-kind data

Eugueni Matveev  
NEWS WRITER

Results from the Alberta-based 1,000 Plant Genome Initiative showcase the importance of out-of-the-box science by shedding light on unexplored areas of plant genomics.

Headed by University of Alberta professor Gane Ka-Shu Wong, the 1,000 Plant Genome Initiative is a one-of-a-kind worldwide sequencing project aimed at collecting ribonucleic acid (RNA) from 1,000 representative plants from every major plant group. The majority of the plants were sequenced two years ago, Wong said, but some difficult and obscure plants are still awaiting their turn.

“When we started the project a number of experts told us it was impossible to sequence 1,000 well-chosen plants,” Wong said. “A lot of them have molecular compounds that will inhibit the molecular biology experiments. And they weren’t wrong, that was part of the challenge.”

Initially, the goals of this project were to establish evolutionary relationships between different groups of plants, and to try and correlate genes with major evolutionary events. While many plant genomes have been sequenced before, no other projects have focused on covering the breadth of the plant kingdom. Most plant genomics research is aimed at increasing the efficiency of agricultural production and, to a lesser degree, medicinal use. Wong said because obscure plants have no immediate benefit, no one has bothered to sequence them.

“Not surprisingly, those hard-to-get plants are where all the big discoveries are coming from,” Wong said. “(But) no one’s been able to get data, because no one’s tried.”

Despite being primarily a genetics project with obvious evolutionary biology applications, Wong said that fields such as neuroscience and agriculture are using the collected data.

Optogenetics, a novel field in neurobiology, has benefited greatly from the data released by the 1,000 Plant Genome Initiative, Wong

said. Optogenetics involves the expression of photon sensitive proteins on the surface of brain cells, allowing for monitoring and control of brain activity using light. However, synthesizing proteins that were sensitive to a variety of distinct wavelengths has proven to be a challenge for a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) research team.

A relatively quick search of the unique plant genome database allowed an M.I.T. graduate student to find multiple proteins with characteristics they were struggling to synthesize. This discovery allowed the team to monitor and control multiple individual neurons in a conscious animal — a huge breakthrough for neuroscience.

“As human beings, let’s not think that we are so smart that we can take a protein and change something,” Wong said. “Let’s just assume that Mother Nature has already done it for us.”

Wong said this project was not conventional in terms of the scale and goals, making it difficult to get past a crucial step in research: funding. While most research proposals require a species description and hypothesis, the 1,000 Plant Genome Initiative was more of a “shotgun approach” to research. Wong said the idea was not to go into the project with a specific question in mind, but to sequence first and ask questions later. Wong highlighted the importance of working with open-minded people for projects like this to come to fruition.

“The people who would mine this dataset have to be open-minded and for whatever reason be motivated to look at it,” Wong said.

This wide-angle view of research is representative of Wong’s career as a scientist. His past research spans multiple scientific disciplines from genetics to medicine, and his U of A page specifically warns prospective graduate students not to look to his past work to expect what will happen in the future.

“I just like doing new things,” Wong said. “I don’t really care about being the expert on any one thing.”



PLANT PROJECT A one-of-a-kind lab at the U of A is collecting RNA from every major plant group. WILLOW AUSTIN

# Yeezy season approachin'.

WANNA GET BETTER AT WRITING? LET YEEZY TEACH YOU.



gatewayARTS

CHECK OUT ARTS VOLUNTEER MEETINGS  
WEDNESDAYS AT 4 P.M. IN 3-04 SUB



# Cancer research breaks ‘vicious cycle’ of tumour growth

**Collins Maina**  
STAFF REPORTER • @COLLINS\_MANIA

When David Brindley started working as a biochemist, he hoped his ideas would be transformed into something that could benefit society. Now, he and his team of University of Alberta researchers have discovered a new breakthrough approach to fighting the “vicious cycle” of cancer.

Brindley and his team have found that by limiting the production of the enzyme autotaxin, the body can block the formation and spread of tumours and increase tumour sensitivity to chemotherapy.

Autotaxin produces the compound lysophosphatidic acid (LPA), which stimulates a tumour cell’s division, migration and resistance to chemotherapy. The primary importance of autotaxin is to protect the body from injuries.

“It’s not that we discovered something that explains everything,” Brindley said. “But we now understand why the cells become resistant to chemotherapy.”

Cancer is seen as the wound that never heals, he said. Normally, when the body gets wounded, it activates processes to repair the damage, as seen through inflammation of the wounded area.

But there are many situations where inflammation gets out of control and isn’t resolved, which causes problems such as arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and cancer.

“Inflammation is a hallmark of cancer,” Brindley said. “It drives cancer to progress and spread and,

as we have now discovered, to become resistant to chemotherapy.”

Chemotherapy, which is commonly used to kill cancer cells, damages the tumour, but sometimes damages other organs as well. This damaging process creates wounds, which triggers inflammatory reactions. Brindley

said that as a result, a tumour reacts to this damage by producing autotaxin to repair itself.

The tumour hijacks autotaxin and uses it to repair and protect itself from further damage. This enables the tumour to continue grow which proliferates and worsens a patient’s prognosis, Brindley said.

But by inhibiting the action of autotaxin and blocking the body’s ability to make LPA, Brindley said his team has seen decreases in tumour volume and an improvement in the effectiveness of chemotherapeutic agents.

“By blocking LPA production, we would be able to improve the

treatment of the patients,” he said.

The production of LPA creates a “vicious cycle” where LPA production stimulates inflammation, while inflammation causes LPA production.

But by inhibiting autotaxin, he said their models have shown a 70 per cent decrease in the spread and growth of tumours.

This is a crucial discovery, he said, mainly because cancer patients die from the secondary tumours that spread and not the first tumour. This is because the more tumours spread, the more they become resistant to treatment.

Brindley and his team are now waiting for the approval of the first clinical trial of their autotaxin inhibitor.

He hopes that they can negotiate for it to be performed in Edmonton prior to the decision, which will be made February 2015.

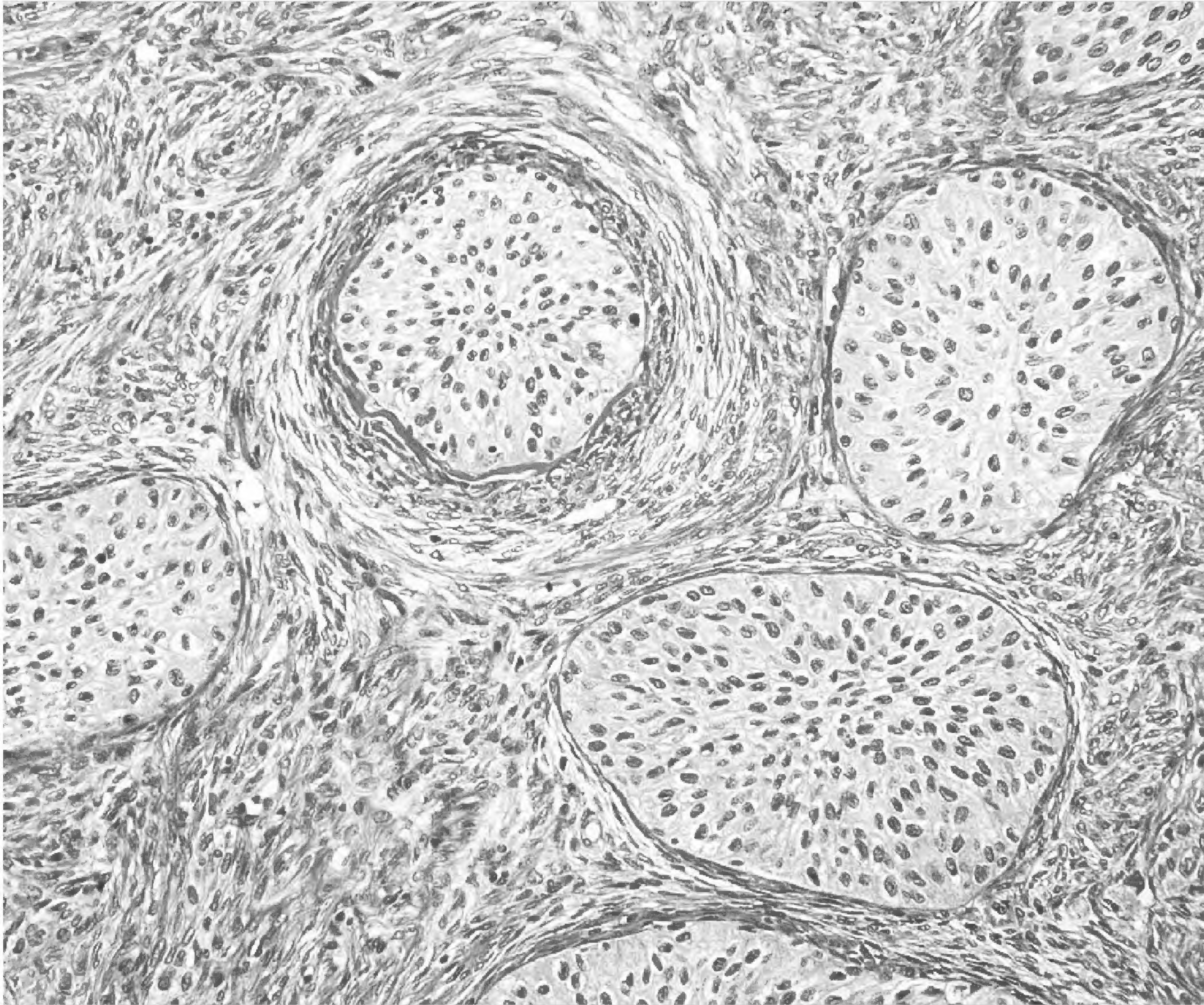
This first trial would be used to see how well human beings can tolerate the drug.

“It’s not necessarily a treatment, but it’s the first step to finding an effective dose of the drugs, beyond our pre-clinical models,” he said.

For Brindley, this breakthrough marks the realization of a dream he had when he started working as a biochemist in Edmonton 26 years ago.

“We are close to being able to translate the discovery research work that we have been doing, and applying that out to the care of patients,” he said.

“These clinical trials would be the beginning of translating that work to the clinic.”



**TRIUMPH OVER TUMOURS** A U of A researcher has discovered a breakthrough in preventing cyclical tumour growth. SUPPLIED

## campus crimebeat

COMPILED BY **Richard Catangay-Liew**

### **COCKED OUT IN CORBETT**

A U of A facilities supervisor reported a parked vehicle with its lights on at 3:12 a.m. on Nov. 25, which wouldn’t be a big deal — except that the vehicle was on the Corbett Hall lawn.

University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) arrived on scene and observed the vehicle which appeared to have slid off the road at the 112 Street and 82 Avenue intersection. with a male asleep inside.

UAPS attended to the unconscious male, who was slumped over the driver’s seat.

Emergency Medical Services and Edmonton Police Services were then dispatched as UAPS attempted to wake the male up.

Despite loud knocking on the window, the male did not respond, but he was breathing, which mitigated circumstances, Roth said.

But the male then “snapped out of it” and awoke “all of a sudden,” UAPS Acting Inspector Marcel Roth said.

The male then tried to start the vehicle, but was unsuccessful. Plus, he didn’t even notice that he was in the middle of a field or that UAPS, EPS and EMS personnel had surrounded the vehicle.

EPS detained the male under the suspicion that he was driving under the influence. The man then admitted that he had consumed cocaine and sleeping pills earlier in the evening.

EPS issued 24-hour license suspension and towed away the vehicle.

### **MARINA MARAUDER**

UAPS received a break and enter complaint from Marina in Lister Centre staff early Nov. 16.

Three iPads, a computer router and Aramark branded clothing were stolen from the Marina. The theft is valued at approximately \$2,000.

The Marina has camera surveillance, so UAPS observed on tape that a suspicious male arrived at Lister Centre at 3:45 a.m. The male then waited at the Marina’s public entrance until 4:20 a.m., when he forcibly gained entry to the Marina. The male then exited via the Marina loading dock at 5:33 a.m. with the stolen goods.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male, 20 to 30 years old with short hair wearing a black jacket with white stripes, blue jeans, black and white running shoes and a black hat. He left the area carrying a Lululemon bag and a duffel bag with the stolen property.

The following afternoon, UAPS received a call from a female Lister resident who observed the suspect trying to open doors to the Marina earlier that morning. The resident thought the activity was suspicious, but not enough to immediately contact UAPS. Had the student alerted UAPS immediately, UAPS may have been able to intervene, Roth said.

Roth advises all students to report all suspicious activity to UAPS, no matter how minor.

“If any staff or students have a gut feeling about a situation or a person they feel is acting in a suspicious manner, they should just pick up the phone and call our 24/7 call centre,” Roth said.

UAPS has shared a copy of the

surveillance tape with Edmonton Police Services. It is suspected that the male is not affiliated with the U of A.

### **BISCUIT BURGLAR**

Staff from the Second Cup in the Tory Business Atrium reported to UAPS that an unknown person had gained access to the kiosk over the weekend.

Approximately \$5 in coins and six assorted cookies were stolen in the ordeal valued at \$7.

Roth said regardless of the perceived size of theft or damages, suspicious activity should always be reported to UAPS. This can prevent criminal activity by detaining perpetrators, who may be susceptible to future thefts.

“It’s always worthwhile noting, and we will always respond to a call, regardless of how trivial it might seem.”

### **AIR ENIGMA**

A student reported that someone had let their air out of her tires on Nov. 15.

The student did recall that she parked next to a large 4x4 truck that was positioned diagonally in the parallel parking stall, taking up two stalls. When she initially parked, she said there was enough room for her to get out although “it was pretty tight.”

The student suspects that the driver of the truck she parked next to was upset with how close she parked to him, but it is currently unknown as to who caused the damage.

UAPS noted that the student’s tires were not slashed, but that the air was let out in the tires on the driver’s side. There was also a new scratch on driver’s side door.

There are no cameras in the Stadium parkade and no witnesses, so no charges of mischief could be laid.

## Pot and PTSD: Beneficial?

**Karolina Kapusta**  
THE UBYSSY • UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Aside from being a common recreational drug, marijuana may be able to help with the side effects of anxiety and fear that are common with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Zach Walsh, who is an associate professor of psychology at UBC Okanagan, studies the roles of substance use and the impact of drugs on behaviour. Walsh started researching the impact of cannabis six years ago, as he was interested in finding out more about the world’s most widely used illegal substance.

Walsh said he believes cannabis has great remedial potential that hasn’t been examined because of “the stigma around marijuana and the prohibitions against research related to it.”

Walsh is also interested in studying how and why people use marijuana. As part of his latest project, Walsh hopes to look into the ways that marijuana may help with the symptoms of PTSD.

“People who suffer from PTSD, veterans in particular, report anecdotally that cannabis is helpful with their symptoms,” he said.

According to Walsh, a couple of states in the U.S. already have laws that include PTSD as one of the conditions for which medical marijuana can be prescribed.

Walsh also said there are brain imagery studies that show reduced levels of naturally occurring cannabis-like chemicals and higher numbers of endocannabinoid receptors in the brains of people who have PTSD. There are also several animal studies that show the endocannabinoid system is important for the maintenance of fear-related memories which play a big role in PTSD in humans.

Walsh’s study, which would conduct clinical trials that look into the effects of smoking marijuana for people with PTSD, still needs the go-ahead from a UBC ethics committee and Health Canada in order to proceed.

If the study is approved, Walsh and his team of researchers expect to have the results of the clinical trial by late 2016.

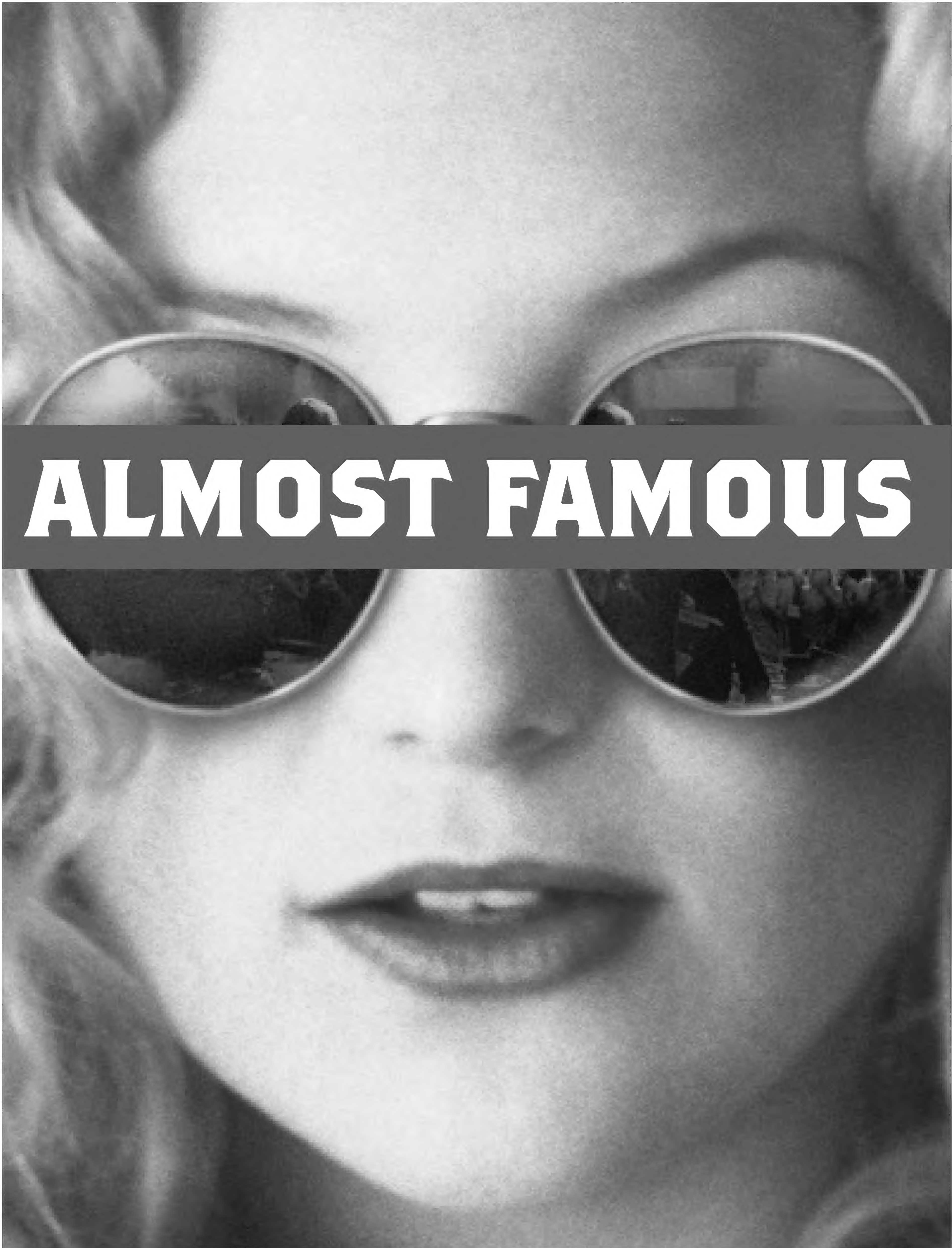
By aiming to back up the links between cannabis and PTSD treatment with research, Walsh hopes to eventually help it be recognized as a prescription medication for PTSD in Canada.

“There is a lot of therapeutic potential and we just need more research to figure out the parameters of what that might be,” Walsh said.



SUPPLIED





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BROUGHT TO YOU BY A BUNCH OF HIPPIES — YOUR CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, THE **gateway**



# Opinion

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Hey volunteers, come by 3-04 SUB every Wednesday at 3 p.m.!

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

## Ignore the cranks, enjoy the Christmas break while it's here

I FUCKING LOVE CHRISTMAS AND I DON'T CARE WHO KNOWS IT. Yes, the holiday is wrought with consumerism and completely taken over by mad shoppers. The malls are full of annoyed parents, irritating carols and overworked retail associates. But you don't have to cave to the huge attempt to revive the slowly dying economy and then get mad about the state of Christmas.

If you're feeling extra bitter post-Black Friday and Cyber Monday because you splurged on things you probably didn't actually need, take a second to remember the reasons that Christmas is actually cool. You have a wealth of things to look forward to once your last final of the semester is done.

Christmas is fun, because living in a predominantly Christian society means that students get approximately three weeks off from doing school-related things in the month of December. That's three weeks of no homework, no trekking from the Telus Building to the CCIS lecture halls for boring classes in three feet of snow and -30 C weather. You can spend a few days sleeping in, tucked into your warm bed.

If you're lucky enough to have some work lined up, you can spend your three weeks productively. While not the most ideal way to spend some time off, the extra income will mean slightly less stress about money in the next semester. Maybe you can even treat yourself to a snazzy new calculator to get you through your math class next year.

Perhaps you don't even celebrate Christmas. That's pretty cool too. But since the system is forcing a three-week chunk of free time on you, why not take advantage of the freedom? You now don't have to worry about school for almost a month. You can spend some time with your family (who you presumably disregard just a little bit when you're up to your ears in term papers and lab reports). In between hanging out with your family, you can also see your friends, who you have probably also been neglecting. Sometimes you just need to study instead of hanging out watching bad TV on Saturday night or playing Settlers of Catan.

Speaking of which, you now have time to binge watch as much TV as you want, guilt-free. Because what else do you have to be doing? *Friends* will be on Netflix on Jan. 1, and if you want something a little more intellectually stimulating, there's always all the independent dramas featuring a strong female lead that you've been meaning to watch since October. Or just drift into a vegetative state and watch *Spongebob Squarepants* and *Adventure Time*, because now you can treat yourself to doing something completely mentally unstimulating. Bring on the Christmas cheer.

But with all this said, my personal favourite part of Christmas is definitely spending quality time with my family. Having moved out of my parents' house for the first time this year, I'm definitely missing fighting over *Skyrim* with my brother and sneaking my parents' cheapest beer (buying your own is surprisingly expensive, I've learned). All joking aside — Christmas is great mostly because I get to hang out with my family. They're cool, and the break is the time that I can hang out with and appreciate them.

This is just the short list of reasons to enjoy the Christmas season. More non-gift-related reasons include pretty lights at night time and a large variety of tasty baked goods. But really, this list is probably exclusive to me. That doesn't mean that you have to be grateful or anything. Just find things you enjoy to do in your off-season between semesters instead of complaining about how commercialized Christmas is. If all you can do this time of year is bitch about the fact that everyone else is buying stuff, take the chance to change your own perception of the season and stop being so damn mad all the time. If all you can think of to do is whine about what other people are doing, you suck and need to change your perspective.

Take the season to remember what's actually fun. Not buying stuff, but hanging out away from campus, with your family and friends.

**Kieran Chrysler**  
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

**MICROTORIAL COMMENT**

## Exam Exhaustion

WE HAVE AN ABSOLUTE TON OF CHRISTMAS COVERAGE THIS week. But if you think it's too early, tough luck.

Embrace the good cheer now that it's December. It's just the right time for eggnog, finding the perfect gifts, *Die Hard* and Christmas hip-hop playlists.

More than that though, I haven't slept six consecutive hours in weeks due to finals, and isn't that real meaning of Christmas all along, Charlie Brown? Stress relief for university students? 'Tis the season and I need it.

**Andrew Jeffrey**  
OPINION EDITOR



JESSICA HONG

## letters to the editor

**FROM THE WEB**

### GSAs a positive addition to any Alberta school

Re: "Wildrose amendment contradicts spirit of proposed GSA bill," by Andrew Jeffrey, November 25.

GSAs are very important, and I hope every GSA will be inclusive, accepting all whose gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship orientation, or existing relationship (or that of their parents) makes them a target for discrimination or bullying. Think polyamory, for example.

**Keith Pullman**  
VIA WEB

### SGS club registration a bureaucratic nightmare

Re: "The underrepresented: Ualberta student groups needed on campus," by Gateway staff, November 25.

I wonder why there's no student group for students with disabilities... but after trying to register a club for law students with disabilities with SGS, I think the absence of some student groups may have to do with the long-drawn out, complex and bureaucratic process for club registration (it has taken me over six weeks!) I have heard others also have had issues with the registration process and BearsDen; perhaps the UASU should adopt a more user-friendly system.

**David Foster**  
VIA WEB

### Fringe feminists ruining it for everyone else

Re: "Time blunder sparks controversy, debate on feminism," by Hannah Madsen, November 25.

Sadly the "fringe" factions of feminism (You know, the "kill all men, male tears, misandry4life" side) are often the most visible and the most vocal. Therefore, this is what a lot of people associate with feminism. Respectfully, individuals espousing those beliefs are confused about what feminism is, and cannot be considered representative of feminism as a whole. Do you want to remove the stigma from feminism? Start distancing yourself from the extremists. Don't let them be the face of gender equality.

**Lauren**  
VIA WEB

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

### Everyone's always hated Canadian university rankings

I find it rather amusing that, somehow, the University of Alberta has risen in the much-overrated *MacLean's* ranking. Gains in categories such as "Leader of Tomorrow" are really not representative of hidden losses and deficiencies that *MacLean's* does not measure. Ask any student how important

such a stupid category is, compared to tuition increases, library cuts, insultingly low provincial funding, and gargantuan class sizes. I'm almost certain that he or she will say "not very."

Perhaps, instead of setting the sights on improving rankings in categories created by a fine, fine, disembodied Eastern news rag, administration could step out of their offices and see some of the conditions that their students are under, and do something about them.

**Neal Ozano**  
NOVEMBER 23, 2000

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca)

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number.

Hey, kids. We need to have a talk. Next week, The Gateway's going to be a little strange. You may not understand all the weird jokes the big kids are saying, preconceived notions of what is and isn't news will be shaken and hair will be growing in places you never would've expected.

It's The Getaway. There's going to be a lot of potentially offensive stuff in there (more than usual) for those without a sense of humour. Buck up and try not to let it bother you too much. We're all adults here, after all. But I trust all of you, readers. You can handle a dick pic or fake, cussing news article, right?



# UofA Students get FREE admission to Conference Home Games

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## UPCOMING GAMES

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## SU's support of leadership college doesn't represent student interest



Josh  
Greschner  
OPINION STAFF

Students' Union President William Lau has a nice smile. I can see why students voted for him.

He's also patient and reassuring. At the Students' Council meeting on Oct. 21 (which was not as boring as it sounds), he frankly explained to me the situation of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College despite my half-crazed histrionics. It turns out the provincial government endowed \$35 million to the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative that neither the university nor council can touch, although it's unclear how much of that will actually go toward the facilities and programming on the U of A campus. The new college is also going to be paid for by donations. Exact numbers have been difficult to find, if they exist at all.

But there's something rotten here. When the Leadership College was announced last year amid post-secondary education funding cuts from the provincial government, students were justifiably outraged. For 144 students, or approximately 0.36 per cent of the student population, a brand-new college with a residence

was to be built so they can learn "leadership."

What exactly will be happening in the new college has been remarkably vague. The website says the college will teach students to "use critical thinking skills based on sound evidence" and "understand diverse perspectives," which is exactly what you do to get a Bachelor of Arts. What's more, founding principal of the college, Kim Campbell, has proposed the absurd: to teach leadership in brand new facilities through online courses. In short, they've done a terrible job of promoting their college.

Some SU members last year, such as former VP (Academic) Dustin Chelen, were skeptical about the entire project. But this year, Lau sent an email to students on Nov. 28, saying he wants student focus groups "that will discuss student perception of the Leadership College as well as what would make it appealing to you." As a bribe, he's offering free lunch and \$30 (which is enough to download Idina Menzel's new Christmas album three times from iTunes. Read my review in this issue).

If the new Leadership College were to be paid entirely by grants from the wealthy, I wouldn't care at all. But the government seems to be paying a large percentage. To answer Lau's first question, it looks like the PCs are funnelling

taxpayers' money into this project so a few smart students can earn some extra credentials, while saying "fuck you" to the overwhelming majority of students by buying out their professors (121 in 2013, to be exact) and raising student tuition (the PCs' tuition freeze ends after the 2013-14 academic year, brace yourselves).

To make the college more appealing, I'd like it to not exist at all because I'm not convinced of its worth. If it is built, god forbid, I'd like clarity rather than obfuscation regarding the funding and programming.

I'll only attack Students' Council if it's warranted, because while they have extremely limited power when talking to government, students do need to be represented. But this is warranted. An email like this from Lau makes council look like lackeys that fight for students when it's convenient, then simply take orders from the university to carry out PR relations when students have simmered a bit.

I was surprised at the number of student councillors interested in attending the new college. Instead of gauging perception of the Leadership College, they should check student perception of Student Council. With a move like this, councillors really don't seem to be representing their fellow students' interests. They're really making it look like they're in it for themselves.

## Don't be so quick to praise President Indira



Sylvia  
Wong  
OPINION STAFF

David Turpin may have been named the University of Alberta's new president, but Indira Samarasekera is still fighting to leave behind a legacy before she walks out the door. If you've checked the university's website lately, you'll know that she's setting up a fund called "Indira V. Samarasekera Global Student Leadership Fund." This creates great opportunities for students, but it doesn't mean we can now call Samarasekera a "role model."

Samarasekera has committed \$250,000 to this fund and so far, four students have benefited from it. According to the *Edmonton Journal*, this fund will "grow to \$1 million after fundraising in the community and private sector." The purpose of this fund is to boost opportunities for students to learn on an international scale, including volunteering and internships. Samarasekera believes this qualification is something employers consider when they're hiring.

This fund is highly regarded, according to the school's website, where Samarasekera is said to be "a role model for the life-changing impact of education abroad and the lasting benefits it can bring" and her fund is described as "a tremendous example of President Samarasekera's vision and commitment."

Really? Although Samarasekera's donation does help fund some of the programs for international experience, it's absurd to portray her as a saint. We're crediting her for the fund and the increase in international students, but praising her

this much ignores her unreasonable salary during a difficult financial period for the U of A brought on by the provincial government's budget cuts, tuition hikes and the amount of courses that are cancelled at the university each year. According to the *Edmonton Journal*, Samarasekera's total salary was \$529,000, but the addition of benefits would boost the money in her pocket to \$1.2 million. \$250,000 is chump change.

Given her scandals during her term as president, it isn't hard to believe that her good efforts are being criticized. The *Edmonton Journal* reported that Samarasekera addressed the backlash with her salary, saying her high pay was due to inflation. She even admitted that her initial salary was not much different from the salary of a professor of a high position. Samarasekera said "I think they are going to have to recalibrate (compensation) and they will have to look at benchmarks at other universities." She also said that she had tried to turn down the raise, only to be rejected. However, her sincerity on this issue should be questioned, for she made this remark as she was set to retire as president.

Programs that help students study at an international level aren't hard to find. Walk into any career fair and you'll find many volunteer and internship opportunities. Not to mention, there are many scholarships that will help fund your trip. Samarasekera's fund is definitely not the only option. Although I appreciate Samarasekera's good intentions to help her students, perhaps the money could be better spent elsewhere. This grant is doing something that has already been done. Ever since this fund has come to light, people are questioning why Samarasekera isn't helping students improve their experience right here at the university. The money should

be used to contribute to the suicide prevention program that the school is developing.

Two student deaths, sadly, were reported on campus, leading to the development of this suicide prevention program and increased promotion of mental illness services that already exist. As a resident of Lister Center, I've witnessed the amount of pain that has stricken the hearts of students upon hearing someone's passing. However, sometimes putting up flyers to tell the students to call someone if they need help won't do anything. In order to improve their services, the school is trying to have psychologists placed nearer the students at the faculty level, as reported by CBC News, instead of expecting the students to come for help. With the suicide prevention program in the works, it would be logical to put Samarasekera's donation to use and help the students here. With the funding, perhaps more professionals can be hired to be in close proximity with the students, listen to their problems and hopefully solve them together. The Let's Talk program at Bell has given the university a small grant "aimed at removing the stigma around mental illness," and with Samarasekera's grant, we can expand into an even healthier environment where students know that it's not taboo to talk about personal mental health.

You can say that Samarasekera has made a good move this time by putting money back into the student's pockets, but that money could be used in better ways. Having an internship in a developing country should not be a priority at a time like this. Instead of contributing on something that we already have, maybe Samarasekera should give to something that we need drastic improvement on.



# Why we walk to Whyte and not to Dewey's or RATT



**Zachary  
Trynacity-  
Popowich**  
OPINION WRITER

After spending close to an hour at Dewey's last week, I found myself \$3.75 poorer, frustrated and worst of all, still sober.

There I was, shivering at the LRT, waiting for the train with a dead cell phone and not much to do besides avoid eye contact with other commuters. At this point, I couldn't help but be drawn to a flashy poster in the LRT. The poster, as part of an ad campaign created by the Students' Union to promote on-campus bars, in bright bold lettering, asked me, "Why Walk To Whyte?"

Excellent question.

To speculate a little, when the posters were designed to promote Dewey's and RATT, I wonder whether the people in charge ever asked themselves whether this question could also be seen as a challenge.

At first glance, the poster extols the virtues of going to a campus bar instead of going to Whyte Avenue.



RANDY SAVOIE

It costs just \$3.75 for an 18oz glass of beer, and what could be more convenient than popping into Dewey's or RATT after class?

Apparently, walking to Whyte Avenue.

Now, to preface this, I didn't run an exactly stringent test. The results of this experiment were more of a ballpark test to compare which option was more convenient. Timing myself, it took 21 minutes at a brisk pace to get to Whyte Ave from Dewey's, and after walking in Black Dog, it took another three minutes to get a beer. This makes the total time to have a beer paid for and in your hands only 23 minutes.

Drinking the beer took another 10 minutes, and walking back took another 21 minutes. This made the entire round trip 55 minutes in total.

Dewey's, in contrast, took close to half an hour to serve a single beer, 10 minutes to drink it and another 10 minutes to pay for it. This made my total time 50 minutes. In total, by staying on campus, I saved myself only five minutes.

To be fair, service may have improved in the time since then, and I feel that it's just too easy to blame the harried servers at Dewey's for these delays. Also, I'm very much a layman, and I admittedly have very little serving experience. All I do know is that I should have a headache after drinking too much beer not from trying to get a beer. So it would be picking at low-hanging fruit to simply lay the blame at the feet of the Dewey's and RATT servers. What took the longest to do was to simply pay for a beer without the new Point of Sale (PoS) system seizing, or crashing all together.

Why walk to Whyte should be a compelling list of reasons why our campus bars are better. Instead, it's become an exasperated phrase to use when you've spent too long waiting for a fucking beer.

# Provocative Sun Media pundit finally got what was coming to him



**James  
Davison**  
OPINION STAFF

One of Canada's most notorious political pundits is finally taking some well-deserved heat for spewing his usual careless rhetoric in the wrong direction. Ezra Levant, a Sun Media columnist and talk show host, was ordered to pay \$80,000 in damages to, and expunge defamatory content against Khurrum Awan, a Saskatchewan lawyer, from his website.

In 2006, a group of students at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto became concerned with an article published in *Maclean's* magazine that made some extreme claims regarding Muslims in the west, and decided to pursue the issue through appropriate channels. Instead, it became a controversial topic that drew the attention of Levant, an inappropriate source of political furor who sought nothing but publicity at the expense of another's reputation.

In 2008, while Khurrum Awan was in law school, Levant made a series of rash blog posts labelling

Awan as a liar, in apparent retaliation to a human rights motion brought by Awan and fellow students against *Maclean's*.

The *Maclean's* article that ignited the whole catastrophe was published in October 2006. The article, an excerpt from author Mark Steyn's book *America Alone*, painted Muslims as devious opportunists who wish to capitalize on declining western birth rates and an increasing number of Muslim immigrants to the west as an opportunity for societal conquest. The author purports that Islam "has serious global ambitions, and it forms the primal, core identity of most of its adherents," claiming, albeit loosely, that all Muslims have an underlying agenda for world domination.

According to the Nov. 27, 2014 decision in Ontario court, Awan and his fellow students discovered that not only was this *Maclean's* article spreading xenophobic dialogue, but many more were doing the same. There had been roughly 20 articles published in *Maclean's* in the span of three years, each with similar sentiments expressed, without any differing viewpoints on issues surrounding Islam in the west.

Over the course of a few months, Awan and his associates



SUPPLIED

remarks, and preys on the integrity of others to achieve some level of notoriety. For once, it seems the bad guy maybe got what was coming to him, but this episode is far from over. Levant is here to stay. The judgement made by the Ontario court hasn't made this tumultuous issue go away, if anything, it is more fuel for Levant to keep the fires of twisted discourse burning.

Be careful what you read. As Thomas Sowell once quipped, "If people in the media cannot decide whether they are in the business of reporting news or manufacturing propaganda, it is all the more important that the public understand that difference, and choose their news sources accordingly."

#3LFthree lines free

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at [threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca), tweet @threelinesfree or message us at [www.gtwy.ca/threelinesfree](http://www.gtwy.ca/threelinesfree)

The Fish Bowl lounge is an abomination. It reeks of arrogance and contempt for others.

I am dumbfounded by Greschner's article attacking a faculty and a charity event.

That article about housing the homeless is hilarious.

Another shitty Christmas alone Mr. White.

Fuck you guys, where is the naughty but nice sex show video

You always complain that you have no friends. You are right.

chiiiiiiiiiiiiips

my favourite part is when flipper dies

There is no such thing as a movie starring Ryan Reynolds. Rather most of the time the camera is pointed at him.

No, I know. I mean it. Buy FIFA 15 coin. I will be here for you.

Someone stole my food from the Edo Line on Monday. Thieves deserve death.

Andrew is okay!

Adam is always mad and should be nicer

weather!

the U of A pharmacists are really #nice

what the fuck do you mean my submission is too long fuck you god damn shit fuck

New Darcy! New Darcy!

La, La, La I am Richard

sometimes I wake up and feel like I have horse legs!

sometimes Kieran screams really loudly directly into my ears

WHO NEEDS TINDER WHEN MY GPA KEEPS GOING DOWN ON ME

everyone in line for Panda Hut

Express is ugly

The Opinion Section

a.k.a. I Am Always Mad Section

hey boy, you look like you have a fuckable butt chin ;)

KONY 2012 bring the children home

Kanye has breasts ;)

the social network soundtrack for paper writing YOU'RE WELCOME

craving some Adderall

"@mathsnail favorited this tweet"

\*turns up to the Social Network soundtrack\*

Interacting with the homeless makes me feel brave

Oumar god

see y'all motherfuckers on Neopets!

really? pizza 73?

there's only like 2 or 3 places that are unique to edmonton even considered smh

even tho leva and rosso are really close to campus

ppl seem to like it because you can get crappy wings and various bread products

You are going to die alone Robert.

Yo fuck nuts!

Ratt; supports binge drinking; just ask the manager!!!!



# Wishing others Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas

We shouldn't be forced to use generic unspecific holiday greetings

Holiday greeting should be more inclusive of all cultures

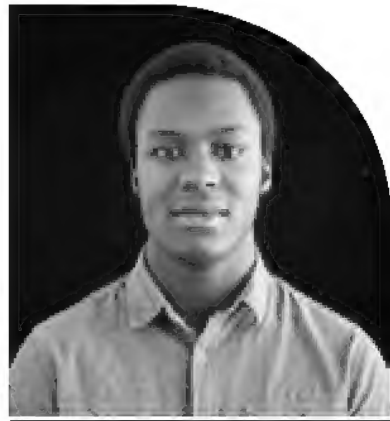


Mitchell Sorensen  
POINT

Referring to the period in late December when everyone is at home from work or school as “the holidays” not only causes uneasy greying of culture, but also is horribly boring.

Using the threat of offence on religious grounds as reason to say “Happy Holidays” is counterproductive. One should be able to say whatever it is they want, regardless of religious connotations.

Granted, Christmas has almost entirely diverted from its origin as a Christian holiday into a lousy excuse to grovel at the feet of Santa and his pimps, Hasbro and Mattel. Though this is certainly the case, those who celebrate it should be able to call it whatever the hell they want. If atheism or agnosticism is more your style, say “Happy Holidays.” If you celebrate Kwanzaa or Hanukkah or whatever the heck it is, tell me.



Oumar Salifou  
COUNTERPOINT

Society is slowly becoming more and more assimilated every time someone decides to use “Merry Christmas” instead of “Happy Holidays.” Culturally, the holidays have become nothing more than a shopping vacation with the added benefits of spending money on gifts for significant others. There isn't any religious meaning to Christmas anymore. For the majority of people that celebrate, it's about the gifts, not wishing baby Jesus a happy birthday. So there's no reason to let the majority impose their greeting on everyone.

People are entitled to say whatever they want, but with this in mind, our language needs to be more inclusive and less assimilative. When you say “Merry Christmas,” it's actually homogenizing society more than the holiday alternative. It's no secret that the majority of Canadians are Christians that are

completely fine with wrongfully imposing everyone else to their beliefs. A lot of people don't want to let Jesus Christ into their life and that's completely fine. An alternative to this is was made by *Seinfeld's* “Festivus” parody holiday that jokes on the imposing nature of Christmas. During the Christmas season we need a “Festivus for the rest of us” that doesn't partake in the glorification of Jesus. “Happy Holidays” makes it easier for those who don't need Christ, and would rather celebrate with an airing of grievances, George Costanza style.

Sadly, it's basically too late to save everyone from the celebration of baby Jesus. The majority of holidays songs, traditions and customs already glorify him. Do we really need to add every-day greetings to the long enough resume that Jesus carries in our society. It doesn't hurt to say “Happy Holidays,” and by doing so, society can slowly move away from the shadow of the majority.

“Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas” this season can save the many from having to assimilate to religious ties. In the end, all the celebration comes down to is mindless consumerism, so might as well call it a holiday.

**the marble pedestal**

COMPILED BY **Hannah Madsen**

For the amount people complain about the chilly winter months here in our fair city, I think that they bring out the best in a lot of Edmontonians. More than any

other place I've lived, people here are genuinely nice in the winter-time. Last year, my car slid in some ruts behind the house I live in, getting turned around so that it was thoroughly stuck and directly perpendicular to the alleyway itself. I had some issues with my AMA membership card and was unable to get a tow truck, so I was sitting in my car, lamenting the fact that I'd be late to work, and then one of my neighbours, whom I had never met, drove up to me in a gigantic pickup truck that had a chain fastened onto the front. He immediately offered to tow me out and within minutes, I was well on my way.

I have experienced and witnessed this kind of random kindness from strangers many a time, from groups who band together in the moment to push a stranger's car that's stuck in some snow, to others who see a car pulled off to the side on a rural highway and, one after another, slow down to ask if everything's okay and offer whatever assistance they can if it's not. Honestly, while I dislike the cold and sometimes dread driving on the icy roads typical to this time of year, living in Edmonton with the people around me in our fair city

warms the cold cockles of my heart anytime I start to resent winter-time.

*The Marble Pedestal is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put on a pedestal and praised is glorified in print. No one is actually placed on a pedestal, but that'd probably be a really nice thing to do and maybe we should think about it*

## All we want for Christmas: the best gifts we'll never get to receive



Opinion Staff  
GROUP COMMENTARY

Inevitably, Christmas cheer is undercut every year with disappointing gifts and a sad sign that your friends and family don't really “get” you or know any of your interests. After enduring years of this, we at *The Gateway* asked ourselves what our dream gifts would be and who they would come from.

Lisa Szabo

When anyone asks me what I want for Christmas, I usually belt out what I feel is a pretty damn underrated rendition of Mariah Carey's “All I want for Christmas is You.”

However, inviting every man, woman and child to “make my wish come truuuuuuuuue” is really starting to wear down the exclusivity factor. So, instead of “you” this Christmas, the one thing I actually need is a new backpack.

Honestly, have you seen my backpack? It looks like I used it to break up a fight between Lindsey Lohan and her mom. My new one has to be black, to match my soul, and it also has to be big enough to fit my lunch — which is usually a regular sized tub of cottage cheese and a Tim Horton's gift card.

This gift would be not only incredibly useful to me, but I would treasure it forever, especially if it were given by J-Law, who, like a backpack, is humble, handy and has devoted herself to bringing down the paparazzi after her nude photos were leaked on the net. Any shitty gift from Jennifer Lawrence would be a better gift than



SUPPLIED

something cool from anyone else, but a black backpack of ample size from Jen would be best of all.

**Nathan Fung**

If I could get a Christmas gift from anyone, I'd like Holden Caulfield to give me his red hunting hat, or his “people shooting hat” as it's known, not that he actually shoots anyone with that hat.

In a world populated by phonies that make you sick to your stomach and whom you secretly hate, I've just got to have a hat like that as a visual representation of my individuality,

as an empowering symbol that distinguishes myself from all the other phonies.

Thing is though, if I were to just simply buy myself a hat like that, I'd never be happy with it because I'd know that it was phony; it would just be a red hunting hat and not THE people shooting hat. The only scenario where I would accept it is if Holden Caulfield were to give me his hat himself. The irony though is that once he does meet me and god forbid, start a conversation, he'd probably be repulsed and depressed by what a goddamned phony I am and would probably find a hotel room to sulk in

afterwards, leaving me hatless.

**Hannah Madsen**

If I could have anything in the world from anyone, I would probably ask Neil Gaiman, who is one of my favourite authors, for an autographed copy of his book *Neverwhere*.

*Neverwhere* is one of my all-time favourite books, and it's one that I seem to keep replacing because I lend it to friends and then they don't give it back quickly enough for me to be able to read it when I get a hankering for some London Below. If I had an autographed copy, maybe I wouldn't

keep lending all of my copies out and losing them, and then I could read *Neverwhere* whenever I want and bask in its neat worldbuilding.

**Josh Greschner**

I'd want anyone but Santa delivering me presents. I imagine he's a raging, old bastard at this point in his career, especially on Christmas Eve. He'd be running late and crash land his sleigh in front of my house, dig into his infinite sack and storm up to my door. The elves would normally do the dirty work, but Santa would just do it himself because they'd have completely screwed up Fort Mac by delivering them all the Cat Stevens vinyl meant for Portland.

Santa would come up to the door, realize it's locked, smash the window with a rock and go inside. The Coca-Cola years would really have put him out of shape. He'd chuck presents under the tree, then turn and slip on a snowprint he left on the hardwood.

“Medic!” he'd cry. “Get in here you bastard!”

Of course, the medic would be the same decrepit, old elf that started with Santa 100 years ago, because the jolly red man overlooked importing female elves for the reproduction of labour to his North Pole colony. Or cheaped out.

“You broke your pelvis, chief,” the medic elf would say, rubbing Santa's hips. “And hopefully your heart doesn't give out.”

I imagine Santa then lying on the floor, reaching for the liquor cabinet in some stranger's house because Coke just doesn't cut it anymore.

I guess if I'd want anything for Christmas, it'd be for Santa to retire with sufficient heart pills and counseling.



## UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION

# ANNUAL REPORT

### IN THIS LETTER,

*I will let the Annual Report speak for itself, and highlight two successes from the year that explain a lot about how the SU works.*

*This year saw the official approval of Fall Reading Week, the final step in a long, four year process. That sense of continuity from one year to the next goes very much to the heart of what the SU is.*

*On the question of affordability, one small change to the U-Pass system mean that U-Pass replacement costs are now prorated; previously, students were charged the full cost of a new pass.*

*Two very different but important achievements for the SU and for students.*

*I am proud to have served as SU President in such a tumultuous year, and I want to thank my fellow executives: their tireless efforts made everything we did possible. I also want to thank the SU staff, volunteers and the student councillors: the effects of their work can be seen throughout this report.*

*In a welcome letter that I wrote for the Student Handbook, I said "I hope your experience here will be just as transformative as mine has been." Little did I know how transformative the year would be!*

*All the best this year,*

**PETROS KUSMU**  
President, 2013-2014

## 2013-2014

*This year's Annual Report is divided into two sections: **Priority Goals** and **Additional Operational Notes**. The first section outlines the five key goals set by the 2013-14 Executive and the progress made, and the latter section provides additional commentary on the Students' Union's overall operations for the year.*





## 2013-14 PRIORITY GOALS

### AFFORDABILITY:

Ensuring the affordability of the university experience, from tuition and food costs to textbook prices.

As our students are spending up to \$1200 a year on textbooks, the Students' Union (SU) felt the time was right to re-launch the Be Book Smart campaign, providing students with information on how to save money on textbooks, and encouraging professors at the U of A to adopt student-friendly textbook practices. As an important follow-up to last year's student-led Ignite conference, the province recently announced more funding towards open- educational resources, an initiative which will hopefully increase educational affordability in a meaningful way down the road by providing, for instance, free online textbooks.

At the start of our term leading the SU, the province drastically cut funding to the U of A, leading the SU to call for reinvestment and press the province to keep the cuts from falling on the backs of students. The SU released a report to the media and provincial decision-makers outlining student concerns with the CoSSS fee and other Mandatory Non-instructional Fees, and fought against moves by the Board of Governors to increase international student tuition.

While the tuition increase eventually passed, the SU held the University Administration to their promise to ensure that the international tuition increase would come with a tangible increase in financial aid for international students of \$125,000. Accessing student aid should also be easier in future years for all students: the SU has merged the Student Financial Aid Information Centre with the U of A's Financial Aid Office, which will bring an improved and integrated combined service to students this coming fall. The SU will continue to fight for student financial aid, such as earlier this year when we ensured that scholarships would remain unaffected by disbursement changes.

We're also excited that U-Pass replacement costs have been reduced. Where students were formerly charged the entire replacement cost of a new U-Pass, replacement U-Pass fees will now be prorated.

VALUE OF  
ACCESS FUND  
GRANTS AWARDED  
\$511,431

### MAXIMIZING THE STUDENT POTENTIAL:

Finding ways to maximize the student experience at the U of A.

The exciting renovations to the Students' Union Building have continued, and these key changes to the most prominent student building on campus will ensure that it stays relevant and accessible to the campus population. A key part of the renovations will see the creation of an involvement centre to connect students with volunteer and student group opportunities. Alongside the renovations to SUB comes the construction of the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre, a student funded and designed initiative. The PAW Centre, to be completed the upcoming school year, will promote student health on campus and will include a teaching kitchen.

The SU has been involved in shaping the discussion around the Peter Lougheed Leadership College. After reaching out to the campus community and releasing a discussion paper on the college, the SU met with the university President to work out previous student concerns with the initiative, and create a college that everyone can be proud of. As for your student experience, the SU has been advocating for and seen a larger investment in the Centre for Teaching and Learning, which means improvements to our quality of education.

Finally, the Students' Union has completed research on Block Week Courses, research which next year's Students' Council will be able to consult while considering how to move forward on the issue.

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
REGISTRATIONS FOR EVENTS AT  
NETWORK.UASUEVENTS.CA

6074

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Improving communications, especially with the SU's stakeholders.

To improve communications this year, we have—for the first time ever—sent out a monthly newsletter to students, not only providing students with critical information on events happening on campus but also soliciting student feedback. This has helped to supplement the already extensive feedback we receive in the comprehensive Student Experience Survey, ensuring that communication is a two-way street. We have also expanded the SU's reach with double the number of SUTV screens—our reach now extends to Campus St. Jean and Augustana as well as North Campus.

Cherishing the U of A's diverse faculties, the SU supported the Council of Faculty Association's "Myths and Facts" campaign, which aimed to dispel stereotypes about different faculties on campus, promoting inter-faculty collaboration.

This year was also the first year that the SU has created an annual report to senior university administrators, helping to spread awareness to the campus community regarding the SU's efforts and goals.

TOTAL WATER BOTTLES REFILLED  
AT OUR REFILL STATIONS

636,645

### INCLUSIVITY:

Ensure that barriers to participation on campus are reduced, especially for those in marginalized groups, and work to have students more included in all aspects of campus—from having more students involved in the varsity-side of campus to making campus more gender-inclusive.

With the U of A's international students facing a large tuition increase, the SU spent the year assisting in the creation of an International Students' Association to represent and empower our international students. The SU has also been supporting student residence representatives who have had to deal with difficult and challenging university processes.

The SU is excited that the U of A has an expanded Compassion Policy, a policy that promotes inclusivity by making it clear that reasons related to human rights protected grounds, along with mental health hardships, are accepted for a deferral of term work.

With the SU's successful two year, grant-funded Gender-Based Violence Prevention Project now wrapping up, the SU will be rolling out a new inclusivity project next year in the form of a sexual diversity centre. In addition to the new centre, student executives are excited to take part in annual inclusivity training, where the SU will be focusing increased human resources efforts. Attention to inclusivity will also be seen in the SUB renovation, as the renovated building will include a gender-inclusive washroom.

### STUDENT HEALTH:

Continue previous efforts to combat challenges to student health, involving efforts within the SU, as well as working with both the University and the Government (federal and provincial).

In addition to the great news about the U of A's expanded Compassion Policy covering mental illness, the SU has made further achievements in promoting student health. The SU-run Student Health and Dental Plan has seen an uptick in enrollment this past year, demonstrating student satisfaction with the plan's coverage. The SU has also been making an effort to increase the distribution of microwaves on campus, so that students can bring pre-made lunches from home and eat healthy while studying.

Years in the making, the official approval of Fall Reading Week is an exciting achievement, that will contribute to improving student health on campus. The week, which will be inaugurated in the 2015-16 academic year, will allow students to take the time they need to catch up on their studies, take part in programming, work to afford school and visit family members, much in the way that students already use the spring reading week.



# ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL NOTES

## Overall Finances

We are audited annually by an external auditor, whose work is contracted and supervised by the Audit Committee. Management does not sit on the Audit Committee. The auditor, KPMG, has approved the financial statements as a fair representation of the Students' Union's finances.

We have included here the two most important statements, the Statement of Financial Position (a balance sheet) and the Statement of Operations (a version of an income statement). These are very general overviews; the full Financial Statements contain much more detail on operational finances, and can be found on the SU website.

On an operating basis—that is, excluding the one-time costs related to the SUB renovation, but including regular capital asset renewals—the Students' Union remains healthy and in surplus. The Unrestricted Fund nevertheless did decline—not because of a loss from operations, but rather because of timing issues related to renovation expenses.

## NUMBER OF PLATES USED IN THE REUSABLE DISH PROGRAM

12,851

## SUB

The Students' Union Building has traditionally served as the 'living room' of campus, a place for students that is comfortable, accessible and friendly. SUB acts as a hub for student services, for student groups, and for the social and study needs of students.

Our excellent facilities staff continued to provide a clean, safe environment for students, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As always, when doing cleaning or maintenance, sustainability is a key consideration: we use environment-friendly cleaning products and are well-known on campus for our inventory of recycled and repurposed building materials. Much of the furniture that the SU uses is from the original building in 1967 or from the 1993 renovation: we simply refurbish and refresh it when needed.

Following a Food Court RFP in March 2013, we welcomed a new vendor into the food court. With that new vendor and the Students' Union's own new coffee outlet, The Daily Grind, record food court revenues of over \$5.7M were achieved, up 10% from the previous year.

Renovations continued apace, with the interior renovations to the lower level substantially completed in September 2014. The final renovation phase, the atrium and plaza, are expected to be complete in June 2015. The cost of the renovation cost rose slightly from initial estimates, but this difference will be covered by additional contributions of approximately \$500,000 that have been secured from the University and SU business partners.

## PAGE VIEWS ACROSS SU WEBSITES

1MILLION+

## NUMBER OF VISITS TO INFOLINK LOCATIONS

106,000

## Business Units

Students' Union-operated businesses generate revenue (helping to keep student fees lower) and provide over a hundred part-time job opportunities for students. They also help students affect the campus market—coursepacks, which are produced by the Students' Union and sold at the Bookstore, help keep the cost of course materials down, and their currency and relevance up. In addition to its own businesses, the Students' Union leases space to a number of retail and food tenants.

Profits from business and lease operations go directly offset the cost of our advocacy, student services, and building operations. Without this contribution, providing services at the level we do would require Students' Union fees to be approximately \$50 higher than they are currently.

Overall, net revenue from business and lease operations increased 8% to just over \$1.5M.

We closed Cram Dunk and Juicy, which were underperforming, and (after failing to receive a suitable external proposal for a coffee vendor) opened The Daily Grind. These changes were a great success, and resulted in a net improvement in our bottom line of \$130K.

Bar performance suffered overall, but we did see major improvement in Dewey's late in the year—not enough to overcome earlier performance, but boding well for the future. We are confident that bar operations will move to a profitable position in the near future after two years of small losses.

Retail units (SUBtitles, SUBmart, the Postal Outlet, and SUB-print) saw a small 2% increase in revenue, but a 28% increase in profits due to improved cost control.

## Service Units

The Students' Union offers members a wide range of services that exist to support students' academic, financial, and personal needs. Our services unit also provides job and professional development opportunities to more than 50 staff and 800 volunteers. No other student association in the country offers the range and depth of services we do.

As noted earlier, the Student Financial Aid Information Centre was transferred from being operated by the Students' Union to being a unit of the Registrar. It is hoped that this change will allow for more seamless and unified access to financial aid for students.

Significant changes to University policies surrounding student groups resulted in extra work for our Student Group Services unit, which approved the registration of 372 groups. While this number is still over a 100 groups more than five years ago, it has dropped from the peak of 450 groups reached in previous years.

## EXPECTED FINAL COST OF RENOVATION: \$14M

## RENOVATIONS COMPLETE JUNE 2015

## GRAND OPENING FALL 2015

THE STUDENTS' UNION, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
(Incorporated under the Universities Act of Alberta)

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

APRIL 30, 2014 WITH COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FOR 2013

| ASSETS                                      | 2014         | 2013         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Current Assets                              |              |              |
| Cash  | 1,663,394    | 3,859,517    |
| Accounts receivable                         | 958,594      | 574,648      |
| Due from the University of Alberta (Note 3) | 3,156,433    | -            |
| Accrued interest receivable                 | 401,738      | 410,941      |
| Merchandise inventories                     | 385,257      | 339,816      |
| Prepaid expenses and deposits               | 498,716      | 159,951      |
| SUBTOTAL                                    | 7,064,132    | 5,344,873    |
| Investments                                 | 6,296,180    | 6,758,561    |
| Capital assets                              | 12,575,911   | 6,963,022    |
| TOTAL VALUE OF ASSETS                       | \$25,936,223 | \$19,066,456 |
| LIABILITIES                                 |              |              |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities    | 1,606,827    | 1,440,875    |
| Deferred revenue and deposits               | 1,847,312    | 1,651,562    |
| Loans payable to the University of Alberta  | 6,233,334    | -            |
| TOTAL VALUE OF LIABILITIES                  | \$9,687,473  | \$3,092,437  |
| FUND BALANCES                               |              |              |
| Invested in capital assets                  | 9,499,010    | 6,963,022    |
| Externally restricted funds                 | 1,916,013    | 1,572,344    |
| Student Involvement Fund                    | 3,439,144    | 3,303,846    |
| Internally restricted funds                 | (161,262)    | 1,689,847    |
| Unrestricted Fund                           | 1,555,845    | 2,444,960    |
| TOTAL VALUE OF FUNDBALANCES                 | 16,248,750   | 15,974,019   |
| LIABILITIES + FUND BALANCES                 | \$25,936,223 | \$19,066,456 |



Events and Venues

The SU also operates venues such as Myer Horowitz Theatre, Dinwoodie Lounge, and SUBstage, as well as coordinating a variety of major campus events. These events are designed to welcome students to campus and engage students in life outside of the classroom. Programming varies from entertainment to friendly competition.

The annual core events program—Week of Welcome, Antifreeze, Campus Cup, the Singer/Songwriter and Comedy series, and Movie Nights—generally saw increased participation, with WOW growing substantially, and Antifreeze and Campus Cup hitting their enrolment caps.

Gross revenue from events and venues grew 7% while expenses grew only 3%, resulting in almost a \$50,000 decrease in the net cost of SU programming.

STUDENTS ATTENDING ORIENTATION

3168

TOTAL NUMBER OF DODGEBALL TEAMS FOR CAMPUS CUP 2013

1427

Advocacy and Governance

Following the conflict over Lister Hall in 2012, the University, the Students' Union, and the Graduate Students Association developed a 'consultation framework' to delineate appropriate guidelines for student consultation on major changes to University practices and policy.

The Discover Governance unit created GovCamp, a professional development retreat designed to help Student Council and Faculty Association representatives be more effective in both SU and University governance environments.

In addition to assisting in the creation of an International Students' Association, the SU opposed increases to international student tuition and lobbied government for improved permanent residency and visa provisions for international students.

VALUE OF GRANTS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENT GROUPS

\$95,000

THE STUDENTS' UNION, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2014 WITH COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FOR 2013

|  | 2014                          |                                   |                                |   |                     | 2013                          |                                   |                                |   |                     |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | INVESTED IN<br>CAPITAL ASSETS | EXTERNALLY<br>RESTRICTED<br>FUNDS | STUDENT<br>INVOLVEMENT<br>FUND | UNRESTRICTED<br>AND INTERNALLY<br>RESTRICTED<br>FUNDS | TOTAL<br>OPERATIONS | INVESTED IN<br>CAPITAL ASSETS | EXTERNALLY<br>RESTRICTED<br>FUNDS | STUDENT<br>INVOLVEMENT<br>FUND | UNRESTRICTED<br>AND INTERNALLY<br>RESTRICTED<br>FUNDS | TOTAL<br>OPERATIONS |
| GENERAL REVENUES                                     |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |
| Student Fees   | -                             | 2,323,701                         | -                              | 6,815,471   | 9,139,172           | -                             | 2,275,680                         | -                              | 6,690,478   | 8,966,158           |
| Interest and dividends                               | -                             | -                                 | 82,909                         | 119,571   | 202,480             | -                             | -                                 | 113,270                        | 163,047   | 276,317             |
| SUBTOTAL: GENERAL REVENUE                            | -                             | 2,323,701                         | 82,909                         | 6,935,042   | 9,341,652           | -                             | 2,275,680                         | 113,270                        | 6,853,525   | 9,242,475           |
| DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES                                |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |
| Business Activities                                  | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 5,492,609   | 5,492,609           | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 5,457,013   | 5,457,013           |
| Programming and Event Activities                     | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 740,394   | 740,394             | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 690,582   | 690,582             |
| Student Service Activities                           | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 716,337   | 716,337             | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 672,262   | 672,262             |
| Central Support and Space Activities (including SUB) | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 527,063   | 527,063             | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 519,690   | 519,690             |
| Representation Activities                            | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 60,721  | 60,721              | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 86,005  | 86,005              |
| Reserve Activities                                   | -                             | 545                               | 21,500                         | 213,458   | 235,503             | -                             | -                                 | 24,750                         | 240,087   | 264,837             |
| SUBTOTAL: DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE                       | -                             | 545                               | 21,500                         | 7,750,582   | 7,772,627           | -                             | -                                 | 24,750                         | 7,665,639   | 7,690,389           |
| TOTAL GENERAL AND DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES              | -                             | 2,324,246                         | 104,409                        | 14,685,624  | 17,114,279          | -                             | 2,275,680                         | 138,020                        | 14,519,164  | 16,932,864          |
| GENERAL EXPENSES                                     |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |
| General Amortization                                 | 775,531                       | -                                 | -                              | -   | 775,531             | 506,247                       | -                                 | -                              | -   | 506,247             |
| Interest on Long-term debt                           | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 174,083   | 174,083             | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 9,504   | 9,504               |
| Realized loss on disposal of investments             | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 14,471  | 14,471              | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 12,716  | 12,716              |
| Unrealized (gain) on investments                     | -                             | -                                 | (137,487)                      | (76,178)  | (213,665)           | -                             | -                                 | (104,546)                      | (49,230)  | (153,776)           |
| SUBTOTAL: GENERAL EXPENSES                           | 775,531                       | -                                 | (137,487)                      | 112,376   | 750,420             | 506,247                       | -                                 | (104,546)                      | (27,010)  | 374,691             |
| DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES                                |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |                               |                                   |                                |   |                     |
| Business Activities                                  | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 3,989,349   | 3,989,349           | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 4,062,576   | 4,062,576           |
| Programming and Event Activities                     | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 748,608   | 748,608             | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 745,821   | 745,821             |
| Student Service Activities                           | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 1,479,335   | 1,479,335           | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 1,387,042   | 1,387,042           |
| Central Support and Space Activities (including SUB) | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 2,388,886   | 2,388,886           | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 2,307,053   | 2,307,053           |
| Representation Activities                            | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 616,448   | 616,448             | -                             | -                                 | -                              | 647,295   | 647,295             |
| Reserve Activities                                   | -                             | 1,980,577                         | 106,597                        | 4,779,326   | 6,866,500           | -                             | 1,696,037                         | 89,943                         | 4,555,008   | 6,340,988           |
| SUBTOTAL: DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES                      | -                             | 1,980,577                         | 106,597                        | 14,001,952  | 16,089,126          | -                             | 1,696,037                         | 89,943                         | 13,704,795  | 15,490,775          |
| TOTAL GENERAL AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES              | 775,531                       | 1,980,577                         | (30,890)                       | 14,114,328  | 16,839,546          | 506,247                       | 1,696,037                         | (14,603)                       | 13,677,785  | 15,865,466          |
| NET REVENUES   | \$775,531                     | \$343,669                         | \$135,299                      | \$571,296   | \$274,733           | \$506,247                     | \$579,643                         | \$152,623                      | \$841,379   | \$1,067,398         |



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
STUDENTS' UNION

ROOM 2-900 • STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING • UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA • 8900 - 114 STREET NW • EDMONTON, AB T6G 2J7



# The Gateway's CHARITABLE GIFT GUIDE

Written by Sarah Lazin

**Y**ou've made your list and you've checked it twice. The holidays are quickly approaching, and you're seriously short on gift ideas.

Every purchase you make says something about what and how you consume — the trends you want to perpetuate, the stores you want to support, but most importantly, the societal impacts your purchases will make. This holiday season, consider giving gifts that give twice: once to your friend/coworker/loved one, and once to a project supporting community development around the world.

While there are numerous different organizations vying for your donations, be sure to look into which projects you're supporting. Some organizations, such as Free the Children and Charity Water, have extremely low administration rates, and have very comprehensive structural transparency, so you know exactly where your money is going.

## AIN EMBABAZI CHILDRENS PROJECT

During all of the caroling and tree decorating and rapacious eggnog consumption, it's important not to forget about vulnerable youth around the world. The Edmonton-based Ainembabazi Children's Project has been working to improve the quality of life for orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda, particularly those whose lives have been devastated by HIV/AIDS.

Since their establishment in 2005, the Project has now partnered with organizations in Tanzania, Sudan, and Malawi to improve the livelihoods and opportunities of youth and communities around Africa. Their online shop includes gifts such as Emergency medical support for children and mosquito nets ranging from \$15 to \$1,000, so you can positively impact communities overseas, regardless of your budget.

Wondering where your money will go? Your gift represents the types of activities that your donation will support. So whether you want to further a child's education or help a community with their economic development, the choice is yours. Ainembabazi Children's Project relies on private donations to facilitate their work overseas and is completely run by volunteers in Canada, so you can feel confident in knowing that your money is making its greatest impact.

[www.ainembabazi.org](http://www.ainembabazi.org)

## Charity Water

Nearly 800 million people worldwide (that's about one in nine of the world's population) do not have access to clean water. In Canada, it's easy to take access to safe water for granted — all we have to do is turn on the tap. Charity Water believes that access to clean, safe water is a fundamental human right, and we have the power to help everyone achieve that right.

So far, Charity Water has funded 13,641 (and counting) water projects in 22 countries worldwide. This means that 4,600,000 people have received, or will receive, unprecedented access to clean water. This holiday season, you can help to provide clean water to even more people around the world.

Because Charity Water has private donors to cover their operating costs, 100 per cent of profits from their shop and donations go directly to fund clean water projects. They have a diverse range of products, including T-shirts, phone cases, hoodies, wallets, candles and coffee mugs. Not to mention, their products are affordable (great for university students' budgets).

[www.charitywater.org](http://www.charitywater.org)

## FREE -the- CHILDREN & Me -to- WE

Free the Children began as nothing more than a dream of universal children's rights by a group of grade seven classmates in Ontario. Today, it's an international charity and educational partner working to educate and empower youth in Canada and across the world. Through their sustainable development model, Adopt a Village, they work to end poverty by removing barriers to education and empowering communities. Through the Free the Children website, you can make a donation in the amount of your choosing on behalf of your recipient, or you can choose from their "Gifts of Empowerment Catalogue." Here, you will find gifts monetary ranging from \$25 upwards, empowering communities through education, nutrition, and sanitation (to name a few). Also, this holiday season, Free the Children will match your gift, so you can double the impact of your donation.

Looking for a physical gift to give? By visiting the Me to We online shop, you'll find a plethora of gift ideas, such as jewelry, bags, clothing and books, all made from locally sourced, recycled, and organic materials. Every purchase supports a Free the Children development project and are all handmade by mamas in Kenya. Maybe you'll choose the Water chain and give one year of clean water to a child in a Free the Children community. Or maybe you'll choose the Ugly Sweater chain so you can accessorize that hideous Christmas sweater while giving three pencils to a student in need.

[www.freethechildren.com](http://www.freethechildren.com)  
[www.shop.metowe.com](http://www.shop.metowe.com)

## NEED MORE IDEAS?

## FOR THE CHEF & BROKE UNIVERSITY FOODIE

U of A alumna Leanne Brown created Good and Cheap as part of her master's thesis at NYU. The book is a stunning 208-page softcover, filled with easy-to-make recipes for those on tight budgets. The book was created to help low-income families eat healthy, yet delicious, foods on approximately \$4 USD a day. The best part? For every copy of Good and Cheap purchased, a second copy will be given to a person or family in need.

The second edition of the book can be pre-ordered for \$21.95 on her website, or the new-and-improved edition can be pre-ordered on Amazon.ca. Pre-order the book for your foodie friend and spread the joy of Christmas gifts into the summer!

[www.leannebrown.com/buy/good-and-cheap](http://www.leannebrown.com/buy/good-and-cheap)

## FOR THE Fashionista

Sevenly's motto, "Every item purchased donates \$7 to charity" has raised more than \$4,034,000 to date for hundreds of charities and numerous social issues. Sevenly created seven-day cause campaigns, allowing customers to support diverse charitable enterprises from around the world by purchasing products that give \$7 to a weekly charity. For the holiday season, Sevenly has brought back its most popular designs and causes from the past year so that gift-givers can support charitable work in the area of their choosing, because changing the world can be as easy as buying a shirt.

[www.sevenly.org](http://www.sevenly.org)

Who knew you could create beautiful jewelry and social change out of bits of recycled paper? 31Bits, a social movement towards impactful, thoughtful consumer choices, did! Within Ugandan artisan communities, they implement a sustainable development program, where each woman involved receives health education, finance training, counselling, and business training. By purchasing ethically sourced, handmade jewelry from 31Bits, you are enabling women to participate in this program, where they gain an education, career, social equity and a voice.

[www.31bits.com](http://www.31bits.com)

Buy cute shoes, plant a tree. The OneShoeOneTree project implemented by Inkkas allows the fair trade, authentic, and socially conscious shoe company to plant a new tree for every product sold. So go ahead, indulge in a new pair of shoes (and buy a pair for a friend, too!) You'll be helping in the reforestation of the world's depleted forests, improving soil condition, and providing food for human and livestock consumption in 19 different countries around the world. The world will thank you, and so will your feet.

[www.inkkas.com](http://www.inkkas.com)

## FOR THE YOGI

The Africa Yoga project educates, empowers, elevates and employs youth in Africa using the transformative practice of yoga. They create opportunities for hundreds of youth to step into their greatness, while becoming self-sustaining and leaders in their communities. Their online store has a range of impactful gifts at various different prices. For \$25, you can provide 10 yoga mats for a school class, to teach youngsters about inner peace and self-love. Or for \$50, you can fund a yoga class for 200 underprivileged youth.

[www.africayogaproject.org](http://www.africayogaproject.org)

## FOR THE ANIMAL LOVER

A symbolic wildlife adoption through the WWF Canada is a great gift that gives back (that's World Wildlife Fund, not World Wrestling. Come on, guys). Each adoption kit comes with a wildlife and/or hero plush toy, a personalized adoption certificate, a gift bag, as well as a poster and information pamphlet about your chosen species. All net-proceeds help to support WWF conservation efforts.

[www.shop.wwf.ca](http://www.shop.wwf.ca)



# ON THE RECORD



Written by Andrew Methodius Hawryluk • Photos supplied

It was a serene Sunday in July as Refuge Music YEG held their second outdoor event, bringing the underground techno and house music scene to Louise McKinney Park. People were playing Frisbee, slouching hard in the grass having picnics, or up on the platform before the DJ booth under a massive umbrella dancing themselves clean. Strangers, youngsters and those unaccustomed to electronic music could judge honestly and fairly under that dry summer sun. This was, to a few Edmontonians, their first exposure.

Carl Trautman, alongside Eric Fraser, Josh Gibbons and founder Derek Lee, run Refuge YEG, a event production company focused on promoting underground electronic music. Their public events include Refuge in the Valley at Louise McKinney and Refuge in the City at Churchill Square.

They're the young group of DJs you see behind the booth with milk crates full of vinyl records, sifting and shifting their covers to *read* them for their sound. With a lack of venues, reinventing "venue space" — and our city's underused public spaces — was a big driver behind Refuge undertaking this experimental and bold endeavour, as well as getting electronic music out in the open. The events allow people to observe or participate, a chance to see that electronic music is not merely someone with a computer and pre-assembled beats. It all happens in front of you, in the moment.

A liquor license would have been prime (me being a wino and in my mid-twenties), but the all ages event brought a family-orientated vibeto that outdoor techno show — shows usually relegated to late nights in sweat-drenched venues or clubs, associated with an almost unshakeable aura

of drug use still lingering heavily in many minds. The only thing lingering that evening was my pipe tobacco's raisin-bourbon perfume. The relaxed atmosphere was intense. Old folks rode by on bicycles wondering what the hell was going on, and so did we for that matter. Deadmonton was alive and well. A spell might be breaking.

Trautman speaks fondly of vinyl for DJing and a local musical past that largely stems from movers and shakers of the '80s. He mentions Edmonton's long history which largely began in a place called the Dance Factory, and Flashbacks on 104 Street Promenade, back when the Cecil Hotel was in operation attracting a tough crowd of sex workers and needle-pushers. One element of the past that is still very much alive can be found on CJSR on Saturday late-afternoons. Catch the Beat is Canada's longest-running electronic music program, echoing the sounds of underground dance music on radio waves since 1986, and now online reaching an even wider audience.

His love for vinyl in its physical format is what presses and moulds that relationship as a DJ. This isn't your Daddy's vinyl, but a record containing the rhythm and beat behind every track you hear: basic drum beats or bass lines. Layering and folding these records over one another gives you a thickness and full sound that produces your end product, which is different every time.

A great swath of digital files that are out there ready to be consumed have unknown levels and assurances on their quality. Getting a hold of those tracks leaves you swimming in a cloudy haze of digital uncertainty when they hit your

PA system, whereas vinyl leaves the DJ cozy. Each press is a press of love from the label; costs are high, so quality is paramount. Trautman gets passionate as he mentions vinyl's emotive connection, both personally up on stage spinning and one that can be easily given to his crowd, keeping the flow and mood in synch.

"I can read the emotion and feel of that record by the cover," he says. "I can go, 'that's the sound I'm looking for,' or 'this is where it's going,' just by the cover."

The emphasis and resurgence of vinyl records has grown out of the niche hipster stigma, and is increasingly being seen as a more "music first" approach that focuses on quality of sound and production, and personal connections, both physical and emotional. Clicking "play" on your computer or MP3 is flawless, but slipping a sleeve from the shelf and seeing a large artistic cover that represents what you're about to hear before you lay down the needle is a *connection*.

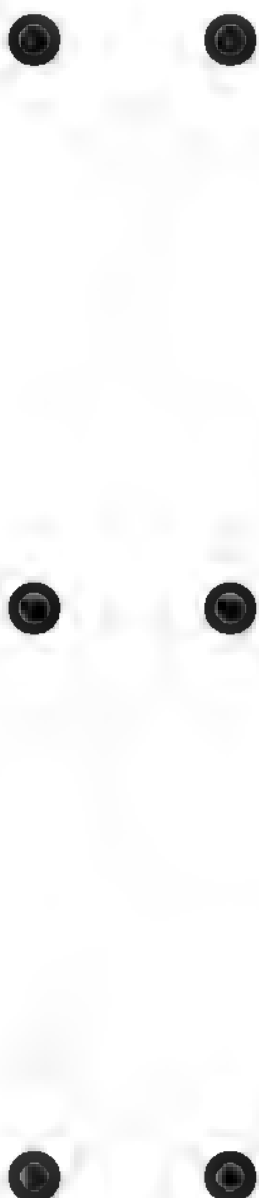
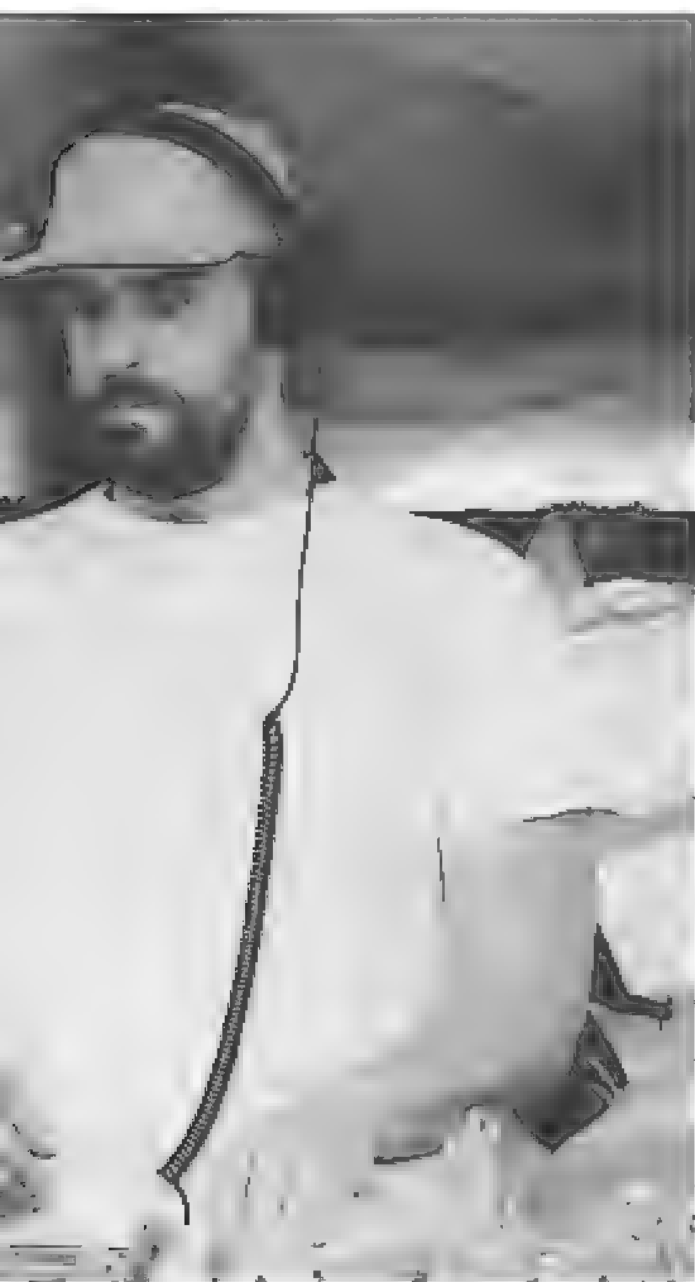
Bart Petrus of CJSR's Catch the Beat and co-founder of local label Heart to Heart Records, has slipped down to Refuge in the Valley with friends who gather the dogs and kids for an evening out.

This new style of non-bar venues is what electronic, vinyl-only labels like Heart to Heart are striving to get at, he says, opening up the music to new listeners. Petrus adds the increased turnout to electronic shows in Edmonton lately has driven demand for quality live performances, as well as general interest in the genre. Edmonton already has a strong reputation for large international touring acts, but building



# WORD

Local labels are breaking out of the underground and turning the tables on vinyl • •



and solidifying a musical base for the local electronic scene still needs work.

Refuge's outdoor shows are a response to a lack of venues of adequate size and that are available to the electronic scene. Regular joints like The Common, The Bower and Starlite Room/Brixx host a fine array of local and international DJ's and local label release parties, but each establishment showcases their own genre.

The chilled-out house music that swings though our prairie river valley at Refuge parties isn't quite a wild pantless Blondtron twerking on her DJ booth — both, though, compete for the same venues. Even heavier still, is a local act has to compete for these small spaces with DJ legends like Juan Atkins, Derrick May and Kevin Saunderson.

Heart to Heart was founded by Petrus and Bryan Wells only a year ago and is already making a big splash on the local electronic scene, grabbing artists from Alberta and British Columbia and orientating in mainly house music. Today, both men are behind Catch the Beat's Saturday listening pleasures, but Petrus knows reaching global audiences are behind a label's success and growth. With today's "borderless" business caused by the Internet and globalization, one's wares are a click away.

While Heart to Heart only releases on vinyl, Petrus mentions that they're not "purists," but aim to share their love for the format and aesthetic.

"We have record stores and people buying our music in countries like France, Germany, UK, Japan," Petrus emphasises, noting it has never been easier for a local label to press and promote local music to a global audience.

Nik Kozub, member of Edmonton band Shout Out Out Out Out, is a co-founder of Normals Welcome, a local vinyl-only

label. With their label's name originating from an inclusive musical environment, Normals' success also stems from a global outlook on markets. Normals Welcome began with full-length albums in both CD and vinyl formats, busting their buns and pocket-books on extensive marketing campaigns and tours. The music was different back in the mid-2000's, however, and today, is harking back to their original intent: releasing 12" vinyl singles for DJs.

"Vinyl feels to me like the last tangible physical format for music," Kozub mentions via E-mail. "Vinyl is still the format that all of us at Normals Welcome play when we DJ."

Normals Welcome, and fellow vinyl labels like Heart to Heart, are definitely creating an awareness of the local electronic music scene outside of Alberta and Canada. That entrepreneurial spirit Edmonton garners of "it isn't there, create it," speaks to what Kozub sees in these electronic parties.

"Get off your ass and create it. It's been this way the entire time I've been involved... whether it was renting a community hall to put on an all-ages punk show, or releasing records and throwing house music parties," Kozub stresses.

For the folks behind local record labels Normals Welcome and Heart to Heart, the physical and personal connection to vinyl carries into their business models. As DJs themselves, it's what they know and love, releasing their love for the format onto the next generation of music fans, and fulfilling the energy and demand that's there for it already. Blackbyrd Myoosik recently replaced almost all of its shelves of CDs with vinyl, displaying a physical shift in music buyer's preferred medium. Along with Edmonton record shops like Listen Records, Freecloud or Permanent Records, vinyl swaps and meets fill the void.

"There's quite a healthy vinyl community here, for example with Dead Vinyl Society organizing regular events," Petrus mentions. The event brings all kinds of collections and seekers together every month or so, with their latest event on Nov. 30 at The Black Dog Freehouse.

"When people buy vinyl they have to be more selective of their purchases, and that makes us more selective about what we want to release for that reason."



Recently a viral video of the band Five Knives "fake DJing" at Red Bull's Amp event circulated Facebook. The two band members were filmed pantomiming DJ movements alongside a pre-recorded track.

This reinvigorated notions of a disconnection from the music and the deceit taking place at shows and clubs. Fans, and even deadmau5 and other notable members of the electronic scene, began calling the group out and raising the issue of the real talent being left behind. When groups like Five Knives are seen as highly supported with financial and legal backing from Red Bull, the masses are fooled into what they perceive a DJ does and how they conduct their music. It's a disservice to those that spin and grind to produce the music you are hearing live. In the moment. Right now.

Vinyl appears to be that last vestige of raw sound manipulation, that frontier where skin-on-wax meet and the pressure, haste, and crucial organization skills are required as a DJ flips through their box of records and seamlessly transitions. The diamond is in the groove, and the music's on.



# Arts & Culture

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Arts meetings every Wednesday at 4pm

## social intercourse

COMPILED BY Maggie Schmidt

### The Great Edmonton Book Swap

ARTery (9535 Jasper Ave)  
Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
\$10 at the door

It's coming near the end of the semester, so it's probably about time you think about getting a new book to read in order to make it through the holidays at your parents' house. Luckily for you, the fifth installment of The Great Edmonton Book Swap is going down, so you can bring home as many books as your heart desires. Along with your \$10 entrance fee, the organizers encourage you to bring at least five gently used, ideally offbeat books and get ready to expand your literary knowledge. Drinks will be served and the crowd is guaranteed to be awesome, so it's definitely not a night to miss.

### David Bowie Tribute Night

Wunderbar (8120 101 St)  
Thursday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m.  
\$10 at the door

If you're not a David Bowie fan, you probably don't have a heart. But even if you aren't, you can still appreciate the different artistic renditions of his hits as all of your favorite local musicians channel their inner pop icon with cover sets all night. Featuring the talents of Doug Hoyer, Jom Comyn, Cayley Thomas, Rusty and many more local superstars, it's a once-in-a-lifetime collaboration that is certain to get you dancing in the street. So whip out your hair spray and fake British accent, and be sure to keep your eyes open for more tribute nights in the future.

### On the Spot Pop Ups

Latitude 53 (10242 106 Street)  
Saturday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m.  
Free

In case you haven't become aware of the obnoxious Christmas carols being blasted on repeat no matter where you go, the holidays are here. Show your family and friends how thoughtful you are by getting them locally made art, crafts, and jewelry from the pop-up vendors at Latitude 53. The event, which runs Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. is guaranteed to have a lot of unique and wonderful items to buy as gifts for anybody and everybody that you care about.

### The Moas

w/ Borscht  
Empress Ale House (9912 82 Avenue)  
Saturday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.  
Free

What's not to love about a free afternoon show at the best bar in the city? Saskatoon's favorite shoegaze act The Moas are back in town, and they're definitely worth venturing into the cold for. With support from local duo Borscht, you're in for an afternoon full of dancing and good spirits. The Empress Ale House features a surprisingly good selection of beer and liquor, so at the very least it's a great excuse to get a little day drunk before finals season destroys your social life.



SUPPLIED

## USS turn up while turning down live show

### MUSIC PREVIEW

#### USS

WITH ➤ Mother Mother  
WHEN ➤ Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.  
WHERE ➤ Shaw Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Avenue)  
HOW MUCH ➤ \$46.50 (ticketmaster.com)

Alex Cook  
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Between Jay "Human Kebab" Parsons and Ashley "Ash Boo-Schulz" Buchholz, Ubiquitous Synergy Seekers (USS) has enough energy to fuel the world — or destroy it, depending on how you look at it.

The dynamic duo that is USS has a history with Edmonton as the first city who welcomed them with open arms. Now, they're ready to loop back and shake things up all over again.

They've released three EPs and an album since 2008, and gained a lot of traction in doing so. In fact, their most recent EP *Advanced Basics* went gold earlier this year. As if that wasn't enough, "This is the Best," a single from the album, was on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 for nine weeks in the summer of 2013.

"We put that song together in a day and a

half, and in the studio. We knew that we had something special," says Parsons. "It's really a song that ... means the world to me, and is extremely important. It's an accomplishment, a feat."

USS has had their fair share of touring already. Despite their high energy level now, they've actually toned it down a bit from blending smoothies and dancing with cardboard cutouts of Barack Obama onstage.

"When we kind of first started in the first few years on our first two records, we were really loud on stage," says Parsons. "We would just constantly do really strange things, because we just didn't care, and we thought it was awesome. It was fun entertainment, why can't you do that?"

■ **"Edmontonians, when they love something, they fully embrace it, and they don't let go."**

JAY PARSONS  
LEAD SINGER, USS

They had a wild time, but they ran into a few issues with their equipment on stage, although not problems you'd expect.

"Ash once had a blender on a rolling table beside him" on stage, says Parsons. "In Singapore, Ash got electrocuted with the

blender, and then in Amsterdam, when I turned the blender on, it exploded on stage, and it started becoming a workplace hazard to do these things that previously we just thought were so funny and just entertaining to the audience."

After that, Parsons and Buchholz decided they ought to rethink their strategy, and what their fans were looking for from them.

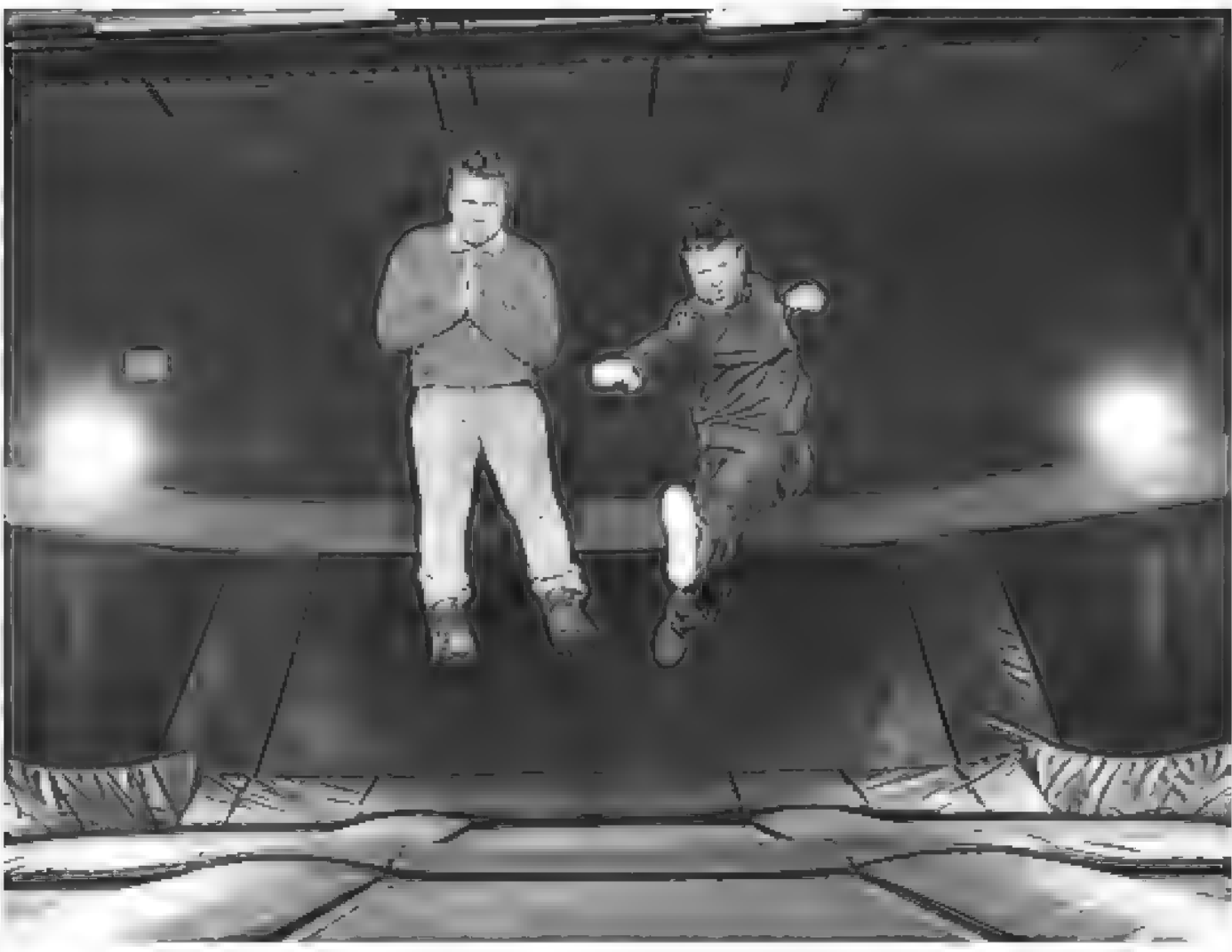
"We needed to evolve, and we needed to revolutionize the very thing that we created," says Parsons.

Evolve they did, and here they are, touring with Mother Mother across Canada. USS in particular feels they are fine-tuned and ready to live up to the famous Edmonton standards for music.

"Prominent, world renowned, rock n' roll bands, like Motley Crue and Kiss, always credit Edmonton as being the first city that got them going," says Parsons.

They are more than excited for Edmonton. They've been here before, and there's just something about Edmonton that keeps pulling them back.

"Edmontonians, when they love something, they fully embrace it, and they don't let go. They hold on as long as they can," Parsons says. "To be honest, Edmonton is like our second home ... with our presence in that city, and the amount of love and respect we get from Edmontonians, it's unparalleled elsewhere in this world."





## the brewcrew

WRITTEN BY James Davison

### Bad Hare Egotistical Jerk Triple IPA

**Brewery:** Rhinelander Brewing Company, Rhinelander, Wisconsin

Ooh baby, a triple! Oh yeah! If you're looking for a beer to knock your teeth out with, look no further. Rhinelander's seasonal triple IPA is, as the label forewarns, an extra-strong beer. At 11.9 per cent, this bad boy packs a wallop punch, and will get you to a disgustingly low level of drunk.

The first sip makes you think everything is going to be ok. But within seconds the putrid scent of burnt caramel and saucy alcohol fill your sinuses and make you wish you'd taken that girly looking beer instead. A faint aftertaste of dark chocolate comes from the heavily malted brew, but doesn't satisfy in the



**Available at:** Sherbrooke Liquor Store (11819 St. Albert Trail)

least.

The texture of the darker ale is good, the head a pale light brown, but we all know that really doesn't matter when the hairs in your nose curl three feet away from the bottle. The colour is a smooth dark brown, like Kanye's forehead.

If you're all about strong and malty beers you may enjoy this one-of-a-kind ale, but if I had to put money on it I'd say you'll be disappointed. There's a reason it's called "Egotistical Jerk" — that's exactly what it is. This is an alcohol-infused sludge, calling itself a beer, just like Riff Raff is a reptilian creature from the swamp who calls himself a rapper.

## flop culture

COMPILED BY Richard Liew

### amazon.ca

This Cyber Monday, I logged in to Amazon.com to see what cheap, unnecessary electronics I could purchase with money I don't have.

There was a complete Harry Potter Blu-Ray boxset, electric mixer, Nespresso espresso maker

and four-slice toaster that tempted my sad chequing account. None of the deals screamed "buy me!" but they still reminded me of how much better Amazon.com is compared to its depressing, Canadian counterpart.

While Amazon.com was full of Cyber Monday deals I didn't need, Amazon.ca was full of deals I simply didn't want.

Half the stuff I searched on Amazon.ca was way more expensive than on Amazon.com, while the other half I searched just didn't

exist on the website.

I get why the catalogue and prices on Amazon.ca leave a little to be desired. The population density in Canada is significantly lower than in the U.S., especially outside of Ontario and Quebec, so shipping goods must be a pain. But it's not like they're being transported on snowmobiles and bobsleds.

Like many, I prefer to use Amazon.com and don't even bother with Amazon.ca. But if that's the case, why does Amazon.ca even exist?

## Vino Bitches

WINE: Castille de Monséran Garnacha

Written by: Danielle Carlson

I've finally found a wine to satisfy my spicy palate this winter. Unfortunately, Castillo de Monséran Garnacha proves I should be more careful with what I wish for. Castillo can still be a satisfying drink over the holidays, but certain steps need to be taken to fully enjoy it.

On the shelf, Castillo's appearance is unremarkable: white with a faded castle tower underneath bronzed orange lettering. It's a classic, but uninteresting style. I would have missed it altogether if a store clerk had not pointed it out to me.

The excitement begins once the bottle is opened. Castillo proves to be both naughty and nice. Deep in colour, the wine emits a bold and juicy aroma of red current and coconut. The underlining spices will make you want to breathe it in for some time.

But this wine can pack a punch. From the first sip, the sweetness takes an immediate step back as the spices expand in your mouth. The flavours cling after in tight, rounded tannin. After a third sip however, I found that it clung too much and had me smacking my lips repeatedly. This could be because of some deposits in the wine. Borrowing a decanter will fix this instantly.

Indian food is said to be delicious with any Grenache, which sounds tempting for anyone wanting to spend quality time with takeout and Netflix this month.

Personally, I think it would be better to share your bottle at the dinner table, unless you want to go beyond enhancing the spices in your curry and overwhelming your taste buds with flavourless heat. Dark turkey is a milder and more satisfying pairing, and at over 15 per cent alcohol, the tension between you and any agitating relatives will mellow out in no time.

Overall, despite its shortcomings, Castillo de Monséran is an excellent choice for the holidays, but sharing it with friends and family will make it the perfect choice.



**Price:** \$13.55

**Available at:** Bin 104

## fashion streeters

COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY Oumar Salifou

Adna Ali  
EDUCATION III



**GATEWAY:** Describe what you're wearing.

**ALI:** Black boots from Shoe Company, tan pants from H&M, a floral dress from Forever 21 and a Slytherin scarf.

**GATEWAY:** What's your favourite thing you have on?

**ALI:** My glasses and my hijab. You can accessorise with glasses and show your personality. I really like the hijab because it's a very modest religious belief and I think to wear it in today's culture and society is empowerment.





# Studio Theatre tackles reclusive family with intensity

## THEATRE REVIEW

**Blavatsky's Tower**

**WHEN** > Until Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE** > Timms Centre for the Arts (87 Avenue 112 Street)

**WRITTEN BY** > Moira Buffini

**DIRECTED BY** > Sandra Nichols

**STARRING** > David Barnet, Hunter Cardinal, Natalie Davidson, Bobbi Goddard, and Joseph Perry

**HOW MUCH** > \$11-\$22 (available at the Timm's box office and Tix on the Square)

**Lisa Szabo**  
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Blavatsky's Tower, written by British playwright Moira Buffini, follows three siblings — Audrey, Ingrid and Roland — as they face their father's mortality and their own self-inflicted wounds. Studio Theatre manages to tackle this complex plot in a thought-provoking manner, (while providing a few laughs along the way).

The entirety of the play is set in a tower, built with visions of grandeur by David Blavatsky, the siblings' father. The setting of the play is highly significant, as the tower itself represents a failed attempt at utopia

— the tower has now fallen into disrepair and exists largely as little more than an eyesore to the public. The Blavatskys, however, refuse to leave, literally. Ingrid, Roland, and David all confine themselves to their bare apartment, while only Audrey ventures out into "the wasteland" to earn a living. The family epitomizes the isolation of those who cut themselves off from society, and it is only through television and magazines that the other family members have any contact with the outside world.

That is, until a chance meeting with a doctor who attempts to liberate the Blavatskys sends their own definition of normalcy into disarray. Taking hints from Milton, Buffini's play shows the tower itself as a kind of paradise lost.

The set is minimal, as the Blavatsky's apartment has been designed by blind David, who believes "a simple, clean environment makes for an inspired mind." Staring at the empty, slanted stage may make you dizzy for the first few moments, but that is quickly forgotten, as the minimalist set ultimately provides a blank slate on which the existential plot can unfold.

While on the surface this play is about a highly dysfunctional family and their efforts to come to grips with the world outside of their own community, it challenges

perceptions of normalcy, and the effects of our society on social behaviors. The Blavatsky siblings undoubtedly appear different from the average family, yet the only outsider is a presumptuous and patronizing doctor, who answers most knowledge-based questions with "of course, I'm a doctor." The contrast between the secluded and fearful family and the physician who hopes to free them makes it difficult to know who to sympathize with, as both seem justified in their desires, yet both exhibit perversions as well. The tower is undoubtedly a place where our own perceptions of society and what is "normal" are disputed, as we see the effects of two very different ways of life.

Despite unconsciously generating a few awkward laughs from the audience and producing a few uncomfortable fight scenes, this dark comedy is overall entertaining and thought-provoking. Joseph Perry in particular gives an adept performance as Roland, the stuttering middle child, offering timely comic relief with his profane outbursts and general lack of social experience.

During their two hours on stage, the Blavatskys give new meaning to the term "dysfunctional," and along with their frenemy the doctor, expose the effects of both confinement from and life within our world.



CHRISTINA VARVIS



SUPPLIED

# Tea Party back from hiatus with tour

## MUSIC PREVIEW

**The Tea Party**

**WHEN** > Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m.

**WHERE** > Union Hall (6240 - 99 St. Edmonton)

**HOW MUCH** > \$35 (unionhall.ca)

**Jason Timmons**  
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

After a decade away from the recording studio, The Tea Party is roaring back with their iconic brand of emotionally charged and instrumentally complex rock.

Jeff Burrows, drummer and founding member of The Tea Party, notes their reformation came at a time of rapid change in the music industry.

"It's a different game now ... the landscape of radio has changed so much. There's so much competition, which is good for the market," he says.

Having just recently come out of their long hiatus, The Tea Party enters into a music world very different from the one they left back in 2005. Radio play for fringe genres such as progressive rock is dwindling, but Burrows suggests this has granted The Tea Party a more

dedicated fan base.

"I think they've all become more educated and more informed," Burrows reflects. "They have to sniff it out ... they didn't even hear it on the radio."

**"It's a different game now ... the landscape of radio has changed so much."**

JEFF BURROWS  
DRUMMER, THE TEA PARTY

The progressive rock trio from Windsor reformed in 2011 after their 2005 breakup. Since then, the band has toured extensively and released their eighth studio album *The Ocean At The End*. While they managed to put together a new record, Burrows admits that songwriting as a team can make the music-making process tough.

"Sometimes you're just scratching your head going 'what the fuck, I've got this brilliant idea and its just not coming out right,'" Burrows says. "Then add two other people, three other people to the mix then heads are colliding, egos are colliding, everything's colliding."

While they found some bumps

after getting back to songwriting after such a long hiatus, The Tea Party managed to come together to make *The Ocean At The End*. The new album is surprisingly similar to their older albums, remaining iconic to the organic Tea Party sound.

The word "organic" might just be the best way to describe The Tea Party circa 2014. Every track on *The Ocean At The End* feels like it was crafted naturally — nothing feels forced. The seamless musical chemistry that granted The Tea Party their early success is evident in their newest release.

Critics and fans alike agree that *The Ocean At The End* is a decidedly rock 'n' roll album that features a more stripped down arrangement than previous records, which Burrows attributes to the collaborative nature of the band.

"We'll just start hashing out ideas together," Burrows says. "That has a lot to do with that real rock 'n' roll sound because it was just guitar, bass, and drums and the organic flow of ideas was right there."

Armed with a stripped down, organic sound, The Tea Party continues to make waves with *The Ocean At The End*. One this is certain, The Tea Party is back and they're not going anywhere anytime soon.

# QUESTION AUTHORITY

Find out how at [www.uregina.ca/arts/journalism](http://www.uregina.ca/arts/journalism)



School of Journalism  
University of Regina





There are always several Christmas albums that surface around the holidays to make new covers of old carols. This year, we've decided to make your life easier by putting them all in one place. Don't be stuck with Micheal Bublé and Mariah this year, branch out like your parent's Christmas tree.



## Los Campesinos!

### *A Los Campesinos! Christmas*

Turnstile/Heart Swells  
loscampesinos.com

**Jon Zilinski**  
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

In their first official release since 2013, British six-piece indie pop/rock band Los Campesinos! embraces us on a cold night with their 6 song Christmas EP appropriately titled *A Los Capesinos! Christmas*. The act had previously played with Christmas songs in the past, releasing the song “Kindle a Flame to Her Heart” as a free download on Soundcloud back in 2010.

Fast forward to 2014, a re-mastered, polished version of “Kindle a Flame” acts as the warming centerpiece of this EP which also includes an impressive cover of Mud’s “Lonely This

Christmas” that’s sure to put you in the mood for the festivities. It is surprising how flawlessly Los Capesinos! crafts Christmas songs, cleverly lacing holiday references at every turn. Even tuning out the lyric, it’s disturbing how well sleigh bells fit into Los Campesinos’ sound. Of course the holidays aren’t complete for these Brits without a dash of angst, which is promptly reflected in each song’s themes. For fans of Los Capesinos! and 2010’s Kindle a Flame, this fun EP will be sure to tide you over the holiday season as we await their next full LP.



## Measha Brueggergosman

### *Christmas*

Warner Music  
measha.com

**Mitchell Sorenson**  
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER • @SONOFAMITCH

Forget Adele, Alicia and all the other powerhouse vocalists you care to name. Measha Brueggergosman puts them all to shame. A classically-trained opera soloist, Brueggergosman’s range, control, and power are frankly unbelievable. This voice, however, is meant to fill concert halls with Verdi and Puccini, not sing the carols we all grew up with.

Christmas carols are meant to be the songs of everyone, from your uncle who’s had one too many eggnogs to your adorable three-year-old cousin. When put in the hands of a vocalist on the level of Brueggergosman, such basic melodies do not give her the chance to really get into the music and blow it into the stratosphere. As such, the tunes on her Christmas album can tend to feel at the same time over and under-sung. Since there is really no way to turn “Jingle Bells” into a playground for such a voice, Brueggergosman’s beautiful vibrato is relegated to sounding hindered and

annoying. Asking her to sing everyday carols is like driving a Ferrari through an Edmonton winter; it’s simply not meant to do that.

That being said, when a more classically operatic song is involved, the music is simply moving. The German carol “Es ist ein’ Ros’ entsprungen” is beautiful, allowing Brueggergosman to explore the upper registers of her range. In addition, the two songs written specially for the album “Let Joy Reign” and “If You Can Dig It” showcase Brueggergosman’s voice more effectively. The highlight of the album is an ethereal rendition of Joni Mitchell’s classic “River.” It is mournful, pleading, and allows Brueggergosman to take full advantage of her ridiculously precise vocal control.

In short, Brueggergosman’s album has very bright spots where her angelic soprano is unleashed, but the simplicity of her material weighs her down. Do yourself a favor, listen to her operatic material. I dare you not to be moved.



## Idina Menzel

### *Holiday Wishes*

Warner Music  
idinamenzel.com

**Josh Greschner**  
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

After Halloween, there’s all this Christmas anticipation. School ends and malls get festooned. And when Dec. 25 comes, I smash a Terry’s Chocolate Orange to shit, I open presents, and then absolutely nothing. I sit up in my room all day in my new socks and Tinder. I’ve gotten used to that feeling of emptiness.

That feeling is this album.

The first song on Idina Menzel’s *Holiday Wishes* “Do You Hear What I Hear” has all the worst qualities of musical theatre — the bloated, in-your-face emoting and the wobbling vibrato. It’s shameless treacle, manufactured sentimentality. The kind of stuff that’s clogging Santa’s arteries.

It only gets worse. Menzel sings way too many notes just to show off her vocal range. Her voice dipsy-doodles all over “White

Christmas” and I could’ve sworn she said “I’m dreaming of white privilege.” Idina Menzel’s uvula probably has more muscles than both my arms. And I lift.

Of course, she sings “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” with the sleaziest Canadian after Jian Ghomeshi. Michael Bublé sounds like he’s barely holding onto his eggnog, while Idina Menzel sounds like she really wants to get the hell out of there. But, there’s some intriguing *je ne sais quoi* quality about Bublé’s lapdog, tongue-hanging-out-of-his-mouth importunity. She pities him.

If you have a heart and if you’re not a crotchety old man like me, you might like this album. It’s everything you’d expect. Personally, this album makes me want to sing “Let It Go” to Christmas and Jesus and Walmart and worship Satan.



## Blue Rodeo

### *A Merrie Christmas to You*

Warner Music Canada  
bluerodeo.com

**Kate Black**  
MANAGING EDITOR • @BLAHBLAHBLACK

Canadian dads and their prairie children rejoice: Blue Rodeo finally has a Christmas album and it’s really, really good. *A Merrie Christmas to You* is a much-needed cozy hug of Canadiana in a seemingly lacking holiday music landscape.

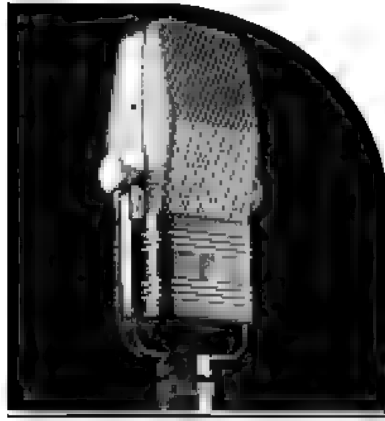
The most impressive feat of the album is, likely, the band’s ability to pull off a Christmas album without it sounding like a collection of covers. While the tracklist is a mix of original and traditional songs, this could be released in June and be confused for a regular new Blue Rodeo release if you ignored the festive lyrics. Joni Mitchell’s “River” (*I wish I had a river I could skate away on*) sounds like it was made to be crooned by Jim Cuddy’s

seductively smooth vocals — enough to make middle-aged mom’s knees weak, and probably enough to make you blush too.

And it isn’t all tinsel and mistletoe — the tunes explore the melancholy side of the holiday as well. “Home to You This Christmas”’ bittersweet lyrics sting without being overbearing — after all, Cuddy’s falsetto is holier than any angel you could put on top of a Christmas tree.

*Merrie Christmas* sounds like being at your parents’ place for the holidays: warm and familiar, unlike the ornate Christmas hymns played at church or the sugar-high festive pop ballads on the radio. It feels homey without being kitschy — just like Christmas should.

# The Gateway’s all-time favourite Christmas crooners and carolers



**Arts & Culture Staff**  
GROUP COMMENTARY

And so, while Christmas albums are extremely hit and miss, here are some of our personal holiday favourites. Tuck yourself away from mediocrity with these gems.

### Maggie Schmidt

Christmas is presented as a time of love and togetherness, so it’s hard to relish being single and bitter. Luckily, there’s Slow Club’s wonderful EP, *Christmas, Thanks For Nothing*. The album’s contrast from typical Christmas releases is what makes it my favorite. Unlike traditional jingle-bells and well-wishing, Slow Club

acknowledges the bittersweet loneliness and longing that are not at all uncommon during the holidays. The album, which thankfully forgoes the hokey orchestral and sleigh-bell heavy instrumentation characteristic of Christmas releases, is easily something you can listen to listen to the other eleven months of the year. Pour yourself some rum-heavy eggnog, and breathe easy knowing it’s totally okay to not be entirely holly-jolly this holiday season.

### Mitchell Sorenson

In the world of Christmas albums, there are two types: Boney M and not Boney M. One can only take so much Michael Bublé and ringing bells until you simply need something more funky. Enter the artists who created such disco classics as “Rasputin” and “Daddy

Cool.” In 1981, they blessed the musical world with the greatest Christmas album of all time.

They take the waspiest seasonal hymns you know and transform them into funkified, synth-driven snippets of part gospel choir, part *Saturday Night Fever*. “Jingle Bells” has never sounded so jingly, and there’s even hymnal favorites like “Mary’s Boy Child” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” for everyone’s favorite bible-thumping aunt. An immensely varied selection of carols is only made better by the simple fact that you physically cannot listen to disco and be in a bad mood. So, keep the season merry, bright, and funkadelic. Do yourself a favor, find it for 5\$ in a bargain bin, and let Boney M make your holidays sound better than Bublé ever could.

### Parker Ali

Whether you need a relaxing tape for a Christmas fireside, or a smooth soundtrack for winter driving, Nat King Cole’s album, *The Christmas Song* delivers. Don’t expect any groundbreaking Christmas tunes — these are the classics. In “Silent Night,” “The First Noel,” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” Cole’s crisp gospel intonation lends these songs and more the rich sound your office party and/or lobby deserves. Some may consider Cole’s classic carols a Christmas cop out, but the inoffensive vanilla ice cream of music gets a huge boost from the impressive vocals.

This music is for everyone, anyone who claims disdain for this album must hold (secretly or otherwise) a latent hatred for Christmas itself, and the silky voice of the legendary Nat King Cole can only work so many miracles.

### Andrea Ross

All I want for Christmas is you, Michael Bublé.

I want your silky baritone serenading me as I bake gingerbread on a Sunday afternoon. I want you to wish me a “Merry Little Christmas” as I light some candles and tuck in with a good book on a “Cold December Night,” the snow blowing outside my window.

Bubléhaters, hate on. You’re only denying yourself these exquisite holiday pleasures. Bublé’s holiday album, *Christmas*, offers all your holiday favourites like “I’ll Be Home For Christmas,” “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town” and “White Christmas,” but gives them a more mature, sexy sound. For me, it doesn’t feel like the holiday season until I’ve got this album on repeat. Sorry, roommate.





# ALUMNI ASKED & ANSWERED

with  
**Harold Henderson**

'10 BSc(Forest)

**Current Occupation:**  
Land Reclamation consultant

**What do you miss most about being a U of A student?**  
I miss the socializing. I came from a sparsely populated community to start, and when I discovered people and hot tubs and holiday parties, well, I kinda flourished. Now that I work up north again, well, those camps just aren't the same.

**Favourite campus memory?**  
I used to love walking in the snowy woods around campus. I'm a pretty big guy, so it was nice to just kind of disappear and not be noticed on my walks.

**What's the one piece of advice you'd give a current U of A student?**  
Work what you've got. If you're unique, own it.

**Best procrastination activity?**  
Playing hide and seek with my ALES crew and the Hide and Seek Club. I went four years undefeated.

**Favourite course or professor?**  
REN205 Wildlife Biodiversity and Ecology. You would not believe some of the creatures out there.

**If you got one university do-over, what would it be?**  
I would have volunteered for the Forest Society Christmas Tree Sales. Make some connections.

**Favourite secret makeout or study spot?**  
RATT for sure. Who wouldn't want to be wooed on the highest peak, surrounded by the most amazing view?

**What did you do to help you stay sane during exam time?**  
I tried to stay hydrated at all times so that my brain could perform at its best, and I spent many an hour soaking my cares away in the hot tub.

[alumni.ualberta.ca/students](http://alumni.ualberta.ca/students)



CHRISTINA VARVIS

## Popping up for design students

### EVENT PREVIEW

### Pop Pop Pop-Up Shop

**WHEN** > Until Friday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.  
**WHERE** > Enterprise Square (10230 Jasper Avenue)  
**HOW MUCH** > Free Admission

#### Maggie Schmidt

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

For most students, graduating means trying to start a career with no real-world experience, which makes starting that dream job nearly impossible.

Luckily for all art and design students, though, the University of Alberta's Student Design Association (SDA) is hosting Pop Pop, the university's first pop-up shop in Enterprise Square. Danielle Soneff, director of the SDA, says the shop helps students learn what to expect when trying to sell their work to the public before leaving the comfort of university.

"Basically, it's a retail shop to try to get students' work out into the greater Edmonton community," Soneff says. "Creating something for retail sale is different than just for a gallery."

All of the items for sale were chosen through specific criteria

determined by a jury of various art professors. This allowed artists to take creative liberties, but also ensure their work is worth selling," Soneff says.

"We asked for pieces that were reproducible that transcend academic exercise ... something that people have either done outside of studies or at least, if they started developing ideas within their courses, that they pushed it past that. Pretty much those criteria, a fine quality finish, good detailed work, professional. If it was any of those things, the subject matter was very open."

Using that criteria, the SDA was able to collect a variety of art pieces to sell, all with a price range guaranteed to attract art-lovers of any calibre.

"There's tons of different things from \$3 for some graphic design students doing sticker packs to \$800-ish," Josh Smith, the SDA's vice director of Industrial Design, says. "My chandelier is \$800."

"The majority of the money goes back to the artists," Soneff adds. "(It's) not a money-making venture for us, just a split-even and get people out there into the world kind of venture."

Setting up and running the shop would have been impossible if it weren't for the help and passion of one professor here at the university. Rob Lederer, Associate Professor of Industrial Design, played a key

role in coming up with the idea of setting up a shop and even helped find the superb downtown location.

"He's been a really good advocate for trying to get us a little more out there into the local community," gushes Soneff.

Opening the shop in Enterprise Square was a major score for the young artists. The location itself was donated by the company that manages the U of A real estate, and considering the prime downtown setup, the young artists are sure to have a taste of what it's like to sell their wares to a broader audience.

"I think the exciting thing about downtown is the professional calibre," Smith says. "Hopefully it makes it a little easier to bring in a wider range of people from the community."

Pop Pop is going to be a vital resource for art students who are looking to get the experience they need to do what they love once they graduate. Soneff hopes that the Edmonton community will see the value in the shop, and will help to support their local students.

"We're trying to contribute to the design community of Edmonton," says Soneff. "We're trying to show the greater Edmonton community that there's a lot of really talented designers and artists here by just exposing them to their work and allowing them to judge for themselves."





# Sports

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Sports meetings are every Wednesday at 5pm

## New Fitness and Lifestyle Centre makes grand opening

**Richard Catangay-Liew**  
NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

PAW CENTRE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lyle also said he hopes that the new renovated facility will entice U of A gym-goers who own memberships at other fitness centres across the city to stay on campus with the FLC's slew of new programming, space and equipment.

Certain areas of the new FLC are

still taped off, as some synergies are still being assembled and more equipment arrives. The new FLC is expected to be fully operational by January 2015, Lyle said.

Also nearing completion is the new climbing centre. Those pedalling on stationary bikes will soon be facing a fully functional 7,503-square-foot climbing centre and 66-foot climbing and rappelling wall, which are expected to be ready by Jan. 2, 2015. The new climbing

centre is four times the size of the current climbing centre in the Butterdome.

The old fitness facility in the Van Vliet Centre, which closed its doors on Nov. 28, will soon be rebuilt into a dance studio on the second floor with the main floor being converted into an expansion of the Steadward Centre for Personal & Physical Achievement. Any equipment in the old fitness centre that wasn't relocated to the new centre — such

as old dumbbell weight sets — will be donated to youth clubs around the city.

The total cost of the 110,686-square-foot PAW Centre is estimated at \$58 million. \$30 million will be supplied by a referendum-approved, non-instructional levy of \$29 in fall and winter terms and \$14.50 in spring and summer terms. Students will pay the levy for 20 years, starting in the 2014-15 academic year.

The grand opening of the PAW Centre is currently set for March 19, 2015.

Lyle, who has overseen the floor plans of the new FLC since the turning of the sod in fall 2012, remains excited for what the facility can be when it's fully operational.

"I think really to start it off, everything is really clicking as much as it can," Lyle said. "We're still building, but it's only going to get better."



**BRAND NEW** The U of A's new Fitness and Lifestyle Centre opened on Monday.

KEVIN SCHENK

## Ski and Snowboard Club aims to keep the party going on the slopes

**Cameron Lewis**  
SPORTS EDITOR • @COOOM

It doesn't matter if you like to shred down dangerous double black diamond slopes or take it easy on the bunny hill, the University of Alberta Ski and Snowboard club is all about having a good time and meeting new people.

The group lives by the motto "shred the slopes, keep the beer cold and the party going," in an effort to provide students with the cheapest rates on lift passes and opportunities to come on the best ski trips possible.

**"Basically, we just want to make sure that people have an opportunity to ride and party".**

CHRIS FEDOR  
PRESIDENT, U OF A SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

"If people want to go to the mountains, we make sure they have an opportunity to do so affordably," Ski and Snowboard Club President Chris Fedor said. "We host around five trips every year and the price for every trip reflects lift pass, accommodation, transportation, so the only thing you have to worry about is your food."

"Basically, we just want to make sure that people have an opportunity

to ride and party."

Membership is open to anybody, Fedor said. If you're a student at the U of A, another school, or even if you aren't a student at all, \$10 gets you access to all of the trips organized by the club and all of the discounts from the group's sponsors.

The annual New Year's trip, the club's biggest trip of the year, is already sold out, but there are currently three more trips planned for next semester. The club is planning its annual Reading Week trip, which will happen between Feb. 14-16, a Spring Shaker trip in March, and a trip to Marmot for the Kokanee Free Ride to finish the season.

If you can't make it on any of the trips, Fedor urges people to sign up regardless so that they can capitalize on the savings that the group's sponsors offer.

"We have sponsorships with places like Big White, Kicking Horse, Marmot, and tons of mountains all around," Fedor said. "We do a discount on lift passes throughout the season at different mountains and local hills, so if someone wants to go learn or have a ski night themselves, they can get a discount."

While the Ski and Snowboard Club prides itself on offering students great rates and discounts to get on the slopes, Fedor said the best part about the club is just getting out and meeting new people.

"There's so many people that you

would never encounter from different faculties and other schools. It's a chance to meet people you normally wouldn't meet," Fedor said. "You just get to meet some awesome people, ride hard all day, and then party with them."

**"The skiing is awesome, the partying is awesome, but the people really make it."**

CHRIS FEDOR  
PRESIDENT, U OF A SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

"Some of my best friendships have come from people I met in the Ski Club. It's fantastic."

When Fedor joined the club, he was just looking to get back into skiing after taking a hiatus for a few years. Even though he could barely do the blue runs, he said the experience was fantastic because of the people he got to ski and party with.

"All skill levels are welcome," he said. "You don't have to be able to ride the hardest, you don't have to be doing double black diamonds all day, you can hit a few blue runs and you'll have just as much fun as everyone else."

"The skiing is awesome, the partying is awesome, but the people really make it. If you like to ski or board and you like to party, you'll have a really good time on these trips."



SUPPLIED



bears volleyball



3-2  
3-0



The Volley Bears looked like anything but the top ranked CIS team on Friday, squeaking out a 3-2 win against the Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack in a match that saw several starting players appear very shaky at times. With 38 kills on the weekend, the Bears' offence was paced by third-year left side Ryan

Nickifor. Though inconsistent hitting in both matches was an issue, team blocking and libero Reed May's rock-solid defence cemented the Bears' rebound 3-0 win on Saturday. The Bears will head into the break with a 14-0 record and will return on Jan. 9 for a weekend series with the Winnipeg Wesmen. — Mitch Sorensen

pandas volleyball



3-0  
3-0



Facing a Thompson Rivers University squad that gave them fits at times throughout the weekend, the Pandas utilized a superior spreading of offence to close out the Wolfpack in two straight 3-0 victories. Meg Casault tallied 30 kills on the weekend to lead the offence, while the height and block-

ing of the Pandas in addition to stalwart defending led them to go into the winter break with an 11-3 record. The Pandas will look to maintain their first place CIS ranking on Jan. 9, when the Winnipeg Wesmen come to the Saville Centre for a weekend series. — Mitch Sorensen

bears hockey



3-2  
3-0



The Golden Bears hockey team snapped their mini two-game losing streak last weekend, as they earned back-to-back victories against the Manitoba Bisons. Brett Ferguson led the way on Friday, as his two goals and two assists powered the

Bears to a 5-3 victory. The Bears followed it up on Saturday with another strong performance, edging the Bisons by a score of 3-2. With the two wins, the Bears go into the break with a 15-3 record, the best in Canada West. — James Davison

pandas hockey



3-0  
3-0



The Pandas hockey team couldn't make up any ground in the standings last weekend, as they earned a split with the Manitoba Bisons, with whom they share third place in Canada West. The Pandas were shut out by the Bisons in a tight

1-0 affair on Friday night, where they couldn't manage to get any of their 23 shots past Bison keeper Rachel Dyck. The Pandas bounced back on Saturday, earning a 3-2 win despite being outshot 24-14 throughout the game. — James Davison

Bears and Pandas hoop squads to play in battle of Alberta

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Zach Borutski  
SPORTS STAFF • @IDGAFIAMSACK

After completely opposite weekends in Victoria, the Bears and Pandas hoops teams will each take on the Calgary Dinos in a one-game battle of Alberta to close out the first half of the season on Friday.

The Pandas basketball team rebounded nicely, earning back-to-back wins over the Victoria Vikes last weekend after suffering their first loss of the season against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds on Nov. 15. The Pandas came out of their bye-week with two dominant performances against the Vikes, grabbing an 83-69 win on Friday and following it up with a 77-50 thumping on Saturday.

Pandas head coach Scott Edwards said he was concerned that the team would come out flat after their bye-week, but was pleased that his team came out and set the tempo of the game early.

"It was good to see us come out and play with a bit of desperation

on Friday night," Edwards said. "We came off a bye weekend last week and I was nervous about how we would play, and if we would be rusty or not.

"We played very well and executed offensively very well, and certainly played better defence on Saturday. It was a good weekend for us."

Edwards said that he was relieved that his team was able to get back into the win column after a frustrating weekend against UBC.

"It's important to limit the number of losses and not lose too many in a row," Edwards said. "The last weekend out when we played UBC, we won on Friday and lost on Saturday, so it was nice to see us rebound and play better."

This was an important two wins for the Pandas, as their last game before the break is against the provincial rival Calgary Dinos, who are currently on a four game winning streak. Edwards acknowledged that going into this game with momentum was very important.

"They're our rivals, we get hyped to play these games and so do they, it should be a great game this Friday,"

Edwards said. "You don't want to go into the break on a loss, you don't have the opportunity to make it up week to week like you usually do.

"It's important to win at any time, but going into the break on a high note is always nice."

The battle of Alberta next weekend will mark the first meeting of the season between the Pandas and Dinos, who won't meet again until Feb. 5. With a win, the Pandas can guarantee top spot in the Pioneer Division with an 8-1 record heading into the break, while the Dinos sit firmly in the middle of the pack with a 6-4 record.

The Bears basketball team will also take part in a one game, winner-takes-all battle of Alberta on Friday at the Saville Centre with the Dinos. The Bears are coming off a rough weekend in Victoria. On Friday, they were edged out 74-73 by the Vikes, then on Saturday they got dominated, losing 76-52.

The provincial rivals are headed in completely opposite directions, as Alberta has lost their last three games, while the Dinos are on a two-game winning streak.



KEVIN SCHENK

Athletes of the Week



RANDY SAVOIE

Bears

Brett Ferguson - Hockey

Brett Ferguson lit the lamp twice on Friday and assisted two more goals, lifting his Golden Bears squad to a 5-2 win over the Manitoba Bisons. Strong play from Ferguson led the Bears to retaining their top spot in Canada West with a four point cushion over the Calgary Dinos. Ferguson and the Bears will look to redeem themselves after last weekend's losses in a home-at-home series against the Dinos after the winter break. — Mitch Sorensen

Pandas

Meg Casault - Volleyball

The third-year outside hitter led a deep Pandas squad to two straight-sets victories over the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack on the weekend. An Edmonton native, Casault led her squad with 34 points on the weekend, in addition to contributing nine digs in two strong defensive outings. The Pandas will continue to lean on the consistent arm of Casault when they host the Winnipeg Wesmen after the winter break. — Mitch Sorensen



AMANDA WANG



# How to salvage your trainwreck of a fantasy hockey team

**Dan Guild**

SPORTS WRITER • @DGUILD

If you're like me, your fantasy hockey team is an absolute disaster. But don't worry about it — we aren't even halfway through the season, so there's still time salvage your team.

**Players to pick up:** There's probably a bunch of people in your fantasy league who don't even know who Brock Nelson or Jori Lehtera are, even though they're really valuable fantasy players who are putting up monster seasons. Go on your league's free agents and take a look and see if some these guys are still floating around. Obviously all of the star players or breakout rookies are going to be gone already, unless you're in a league filled with people who aren't paying any sort of attention.

Filip Forsberg, Tyler Toffoli, Brock Nelson, Jori Lehtera, Tanner Pearson and Cam Atkinson are all some lesser-known forwards who are towards the top of the league in both shots and plus minus. If you're towards the top of the league in plus minus and shots on goal, chances are you're poised to break out in scoring. There are probably a bunch of good defencemen sitting around in purgatory too. Go into your league and search Anton Stralman. He's probably a free agent, even though he's a plus 13 on the season.

Look for guys like TJ Brodie and Jared Spurgeon who munch a lot of minutes playing next to a really good top defencemen. Also, Zdeno Chara will be back from injury right away, so grab him before somebody else does.

**Players to drop:** There's a bunch of players who seem really good, but they're actually horrible fantasy players. For example, the entire Edmonton Oilers team. Before we get into this, drop any Oiler

you made the mistake of drafting. Seriously, the team is so bad, there's no way they can be good fantasy players at this point. Every player outside of Boyd Gordon is going to finish the year with a negative plus

minus, and he's going to rack up all of his points on face off percentage — which really isn't worth much. It's difficult to predict which players are going to fall off a cliff, so take a look at players with weirdly high shooting

percentages or guys who play on teams that are overachieving. Drop your dead weight. Guys like Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Jack Johnson should be better, but they aren't. Let it go and move on with a guy who's having a better year.

**Fleece somebody in a trade:** This is where you have to pull out your crystal ball and figure out which players are going to turn it around and which players are going to fall off the grid. For example, you could probably trade Rick Nash, a guy who's having a nice first half, for Jamie Benn, who's off to a bad start, but will turn it around. You may have to sweeten the deal by adding some future considerations — like a Junior Bacon Cheeseburger from Wendy's.

It's really difficult to figure out which players are going to break out, but this could salvage your league. Sell high on good players on bad teams like Claude Giroux, Rick Nash, Ryan Johansen, Jakub Voracek and Phil Kessel, and buy low on guys who have good career averages, but are off to a slow start. There's probably some casual in your league that you can fleece based on the fact they don't actually like hockey, they just came to the draft for the free pizza. If it doesn't work out, just make a trade offer, go on to that person's laptop when they aren't looking and accept the trade. We won't tell anybody.

**Set your goddamn lineups:** If you had a good draft and you're towards the bottom of the standings, how about you actually go and set your lineups? It doesn't matter how good your team is if nobody is actually playing. Stop being lazy, go to your league's locker room and set your goddamn teams for the week. Figure it out.



**gatewaySPORTS**

Volunteer for *Gateway sports*.  
Meetings every Wednesday at 5pm in SUB 3-04.



# What if the Oilers had gone with Seguin over Hall in 2010?

**Scott Doram**  
SPORTS WRITER

As the Oilers enter December with an abysmal 6-14-4 record, it's no surprise that fans have furiously begun to voice their opinion over the dim future of the team. Their current losing streak is now at nine games, with the majority of those games coming as lopsided losses, where they have found themselves playing desperately behind the eight ball going into the second period. Their recent loss against the Dallas Stars was no different, as the Oilers were dazzled by the skill of perennial superstar Tyler Seguin — who the Oilers could have drafted back in 2010.

Oiler fans have felt cheated by the success Seguin has had early in his career. He boasts a Stanley Cup ring from his Boston days and has transformed into one of the best young scorers in the NHL in Dallas. Seguin currently sits first in the NHL with 18 goals in 24 games, a far stretch from Taylor Hall's eight goals in 18 games.

Would the Oilers be a better team had they picked Seguin with the first overall pick in the 2010 draft rather than Hall? If they did, the team would be in a similar if not worse situation that they already are in and Seguin definitely wouldn't be the player he is now in Dallas.

Having drafted Seguin first overall, he would have been given the keys to the team similar to the way Hall was as an unpolished rookie. He wouldn't be given that time to develop into a top-line NHL centre like he was on Boston, where he was protected behind the leadership and guidance of all-star

centres Patrice Bergeron and David Krejci. The Oilers' top two centers at the time, Shawn Horcoff and Sam Gagner, would have been buried behind Seguin in the depth chart, just like they were with an 18-year-old Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. Nothing suggests that Seguin would see any more success than Nugent-Hopkins

has early in his career because they didn't have the players to aid his development.

Drafting Seguin would have completely changed the way the team drafted in following years. With the Oilers finally establishing a top center through the draft with Seguin, they surely would have set

their sights on Gabriel Landeskog, the big Swedish left winger who was selected second overall by the Colorado Avalanche in the 2011 draft. Landeskog isn't known for his offensive touch, but his leadership is undeniable, as Colorado made him the youngest captain in NHL history back in 2012. So rather than Hall and Hopkins, the Oilers would be boasting Landeskog and Seguin. Regardless of who they drafted, they would have been thrown into the fire by the impatient organization, inevitably stunting their development.

On the flip side, this would have worked out really well for Boston.

Hall would have flourished in Boston with the talent around him and he would have blossomed into a better player than he already is with the Oilers. Unlike Seguin, the Bruins never would have shipped the young winger to Dallas, while Seguin's off ice antics and attitude would likely have seen him shipped out of Edmonton by the end of his entry level contract.

Imagine if the Oilers had picked Seguin over Hall. They could be sitting with virtually nothing to show for the 2010 draft as the Bruins and Hall compete for a Stanley Cup every single season. Oilers fans may wonder "what if" with Seguin, but they would be kicking themselves even more watching Hall hoist the Cup.



SUPPLIED

# What if Buffalo didn't match the Thomas Vanek offersheet?

**Jon Zilinski**  
SPORTS STAFF

Oilers fans were left with a bittersweet taste in their mouths after their team came within one victory of the Stanley Cup back in 2006. Despite coming up just short of their first Stanley Cup since 1990, fans were excited about the team's bright future. Sadly, that hope all came crashing down merely four days after their playoff run ended when franchise defenseman Chris Pronger requested a trade from the team.

The Oilers were lost without Pronger. They posted a miserable 71 points in an injury-laden 2006-07 season, landing them sixth last in the league. Looking for a quick fix, General Manager Kevin Lowe signed Buffalo Sabre's up and coming sniper Thomas Vanek to a restricted free agent offer-sheet worth \$50 million over seven years.

Sabres' General Manager Darcy Regier was put on the hot seat. While the Sabres would be compensated with Edmonton's first round draft picks from 2008 to 2011, he had just lost the team's top two centers — Chris Drury and Daniele Briere — to free agency and could not afford to lose another key player. Regier stated that the team would match any offer sheet directed at Vanek, and they stayed true to their word.

Why didn't Buffalo match the offer and take Edmonton's next four first round picks? There's two ways to examine the possibilities. In one universe, Vanek becomes a superstar player and lifts the Oilers back into the playoffs. In the other, he doesn't pan out and Edmonton is on the wrong end of one of the worst deals in NHL history.

Though free agents have had an unsuccessful track record in Edmonton since the Pronger signing, if Vanek was coming to Edmonton, there would be no room for error by management. The team would have to be a winner, as there would be no first rounder waiting

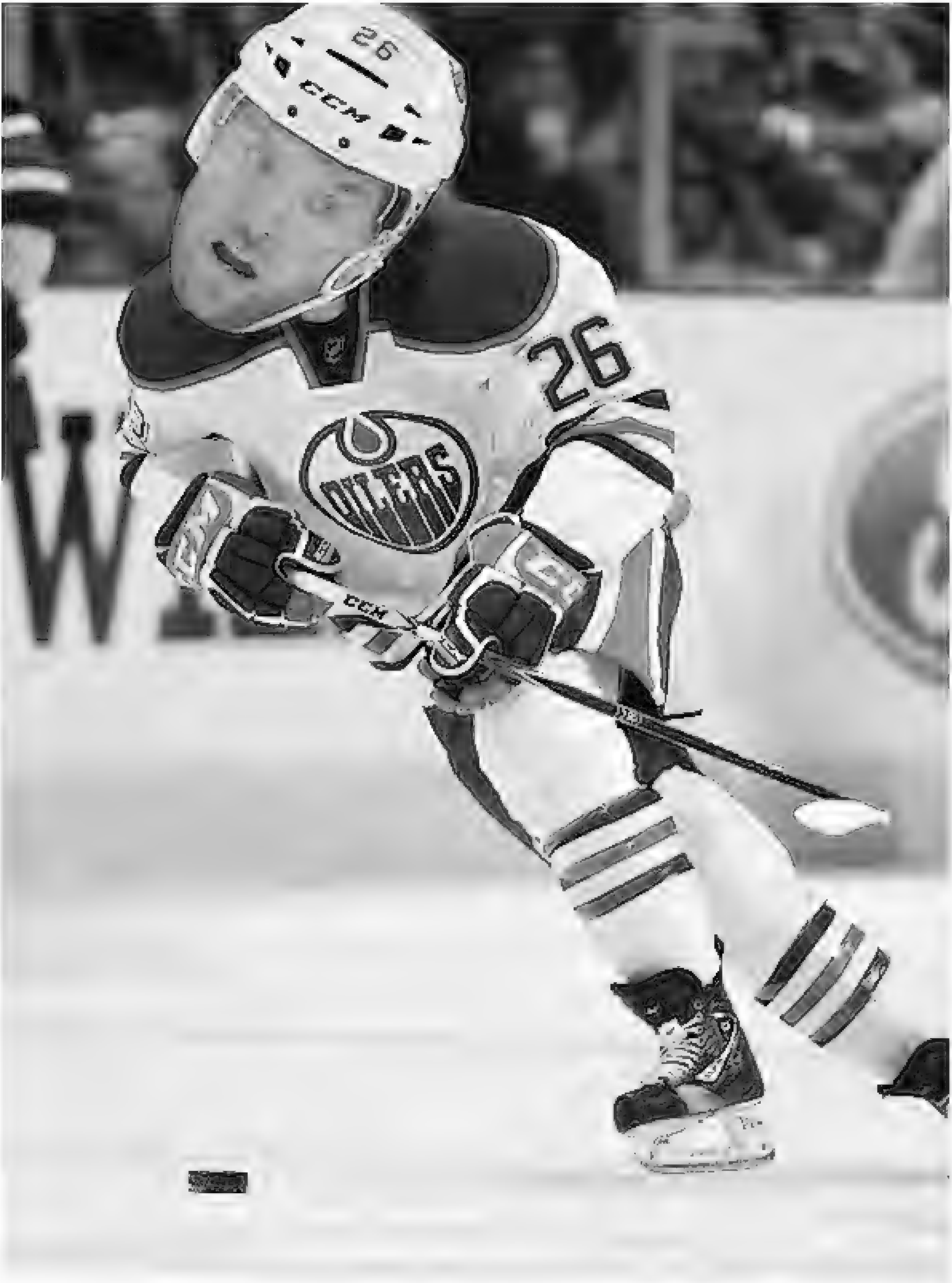
at year's end until 2012. There's no doubt that management would have elected to re-sign free agent Ryan Smyth to make the team as strong as possible.

It's likely Vanek and Smyth would have pushed them into the playoffs in the 2007-08 season, as they only finished a mere three points out of eighth in the west without them. In the 2008-09 season, the Oilers battled hard and finished just six points out of the playoffs. That year Vanek put up a 40-goal season with Buffalo, while Ales Hemsky led the Oilers with 23. Meanwhile Smyth had 59 points playing with the L.A. Kings, which would have been good for second on the Oilers. While these numbers wouldn't exactly translate perfectly onto the Oilers, it's reasonable to assume that adding the scoring of Smyth and Vanek would have earned the Oilers six more points over the course of the season.

With inconsistent goaltending and aging veterans, it's inevitable that this team would eventually falter. Vanek certainly wouldn't have made the Oilers a contender, but he would have made them better. The Oilers likely wouldn't have imploded in the 2009-10 season, so Buffalo would have been compensated with some mid-range draft picks, while the Oilers grabbed a few playoff spots. Not a bad deal for either side.

This is all very idealistic and uncertain, and this is the Oilers we're talking about, so things probably would have gone a lot worse.

If signing Vanek didn't change the fate of the Oilers at all, they would have given up the 13th overall pick in 2008, the 10th overall in 2009, and the first overall in both 2010 and 2011. As a result, Buffalo could have drafted a core with players like Erik Karlsson (2008), Ryan Ellis (2009), Tyler Seguin (2010), Taylor Hall (2010), Ryan Nugent-Hopkins (2011) or Gabriel Landeskog (2011). Oilers fans would be even more disappointed.



SUPPLIED



# Top10

## Players who looked really weird playing on different teams

**Zach Borutski**

SPORTS STAFF • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

Sometimes the desire to play outweighs your loyalty to your franchise. That must be what happened to New Jersey Devils legend and all-time NHL wins leader Martin Brodeur. After playing his entire 1,259 game career with New Jersey, Brodeur signed a contract to play with the St. Louis Blues. Seeing him in blue rather than red is really weird, but not as weird as these guys.

**10. Mike Modano with the Red Wings:** Despite being a Detroit native, it still felt strange seeing Modano in any uniform other than a Dallas Stars jersey. Originally drafted by the Minnesota North Stars in 1988, Modano stuck with the team during their move to Dallas, and quickly became the face of the franchise. After not being resigned after the 2009-2010 season, Modano chose to sign with his hometown team in Detroit, where he played for one season and then retired.

**9. Willie Mays with the New York Mets:** Perhaps most famous for what today is simply known as "the catch," Willie Mays was probably the most electrifying player of his era. A 24-time all star and two-time MVP, Mays was able to wow fans with both his hitting and his defence. He made a return to New York in 1972 when the Giants traded him to the Mets. The 41-year-old Mays was definitely past his prime with the Mets, but still managed to hit a go-ahead home against his former team in his Mets debut.

**8. Pele playing in the United States:** Pele was a superstar for both his club and country in Brazil, as he played 19 seasons with Santos, leading them to a tremendous amount of success during that time. In 1975, he signed to play with the New York Cosmos of the North American

Soccer League, and was credited with greatly raising awareness of soccer in the United States. He also led the Cosmos to an NASL title in 1977, which was his third and final season with the club.

**7. Brett Farve with the Vikings:** Farve's retirement saga had enough drama to satisfy anyone who enjoys soap operas on weekday afternoons. After retiring at the end of the 2008 season, Farve flipped his decision and attempted to convince the Packers to let him come back for another season. After this refusal, Farve played a year with the New York Jets, and then finished his career with two seasons with the Minnesota Vikings — Green Bay's biggest rival.

**6. Bobby Orr with the Chicago Blackhawks:** Orr dominated the NHL during his 10 seasons with Boston, but left the team to sign with the Blackhawks after a contract dispute with the team over his knee injuries. Orr only played in 26 games with the Blackhawks over three seasons before determining that his knees would no longer allow him to play.

**5. Shaquille O'Neal's retirement tour:** It looked like Shaq would make a name for himself playing for three teams: the Orlando Magic, the LA Lakers, and the Miami Heat. But in the twilight of his career, he ended up spending time with the Phoenix Suns, Cleveland Cavaliers, and Boston Celtics. While Shaq was a serviceable player with the Suns, he was really a shell of his former self with the Cavs and Celtics, being more and more hindered by injuries as his age seemed to catch up with him.

**4. Jerry Rice and Joe Montana splitting up:** "Montana to Rice!" became a phrase synonymous with the NFL during the years that Jerry Rice and Joe Montana spent in San Francisco. Their careers did not end on the same path, as Montana was traded to the Kansas

City Chiefs before the 1993-94 season. He brought the Chiefs to back-to-back playoff appearances before retiring after the 1994-95 season. Rice, on the other hand, signed with the Raiders in 2000, was traded to Seattle in 2004, and retired after the season.

**3. Hakeem Olajuwon with the Raptors:** Hakeem Olajuwon was the Rockets' franchise pretty much for his entire tenure with the team. He led the Rockets to back-to-back NBA championships in 1994 and 1995, while winning finals MVP both years. After he rejected a \$13 million deal from the Rockets in 2001, he was traded to the Toronto Raptors, where he put up underwhelming numbers in one season, and then retired as a result of a back injury.

**2. Merlene Ottey running for Slovenia:** Between 1980 and 2000, Ottey won nine Olympic medals for her home country of Jamaica. In 2000, she moved to Slovenia — which is pretty much the polar opposite of Jamaica — and started representing them on the national stage. As of 2012, Ottey ran for Slovenia in the 4x100 meter relay in the European Athletics Championships, at the age of 52, making her the oldest to ever compete at such a level.

**1. Michael Jordan playing baseball:** It was strange enough seeing Chicago Bulls' legend Michael Jordan play for the Washington Wizards at the end of his career, but an even more disturbing sight was seeing him in a Chicago White Sox uniform. After shocking pretty much the entire world by announcing his retirement in October of 1993, Jordan signed a deal with the White Sox, and played an entire year with their AA affiliate, the Birmingham Barons. Jordan's baseball career definitely left a lot to be desired, and he eventually decided to return to the NBA, where he won three more championships.



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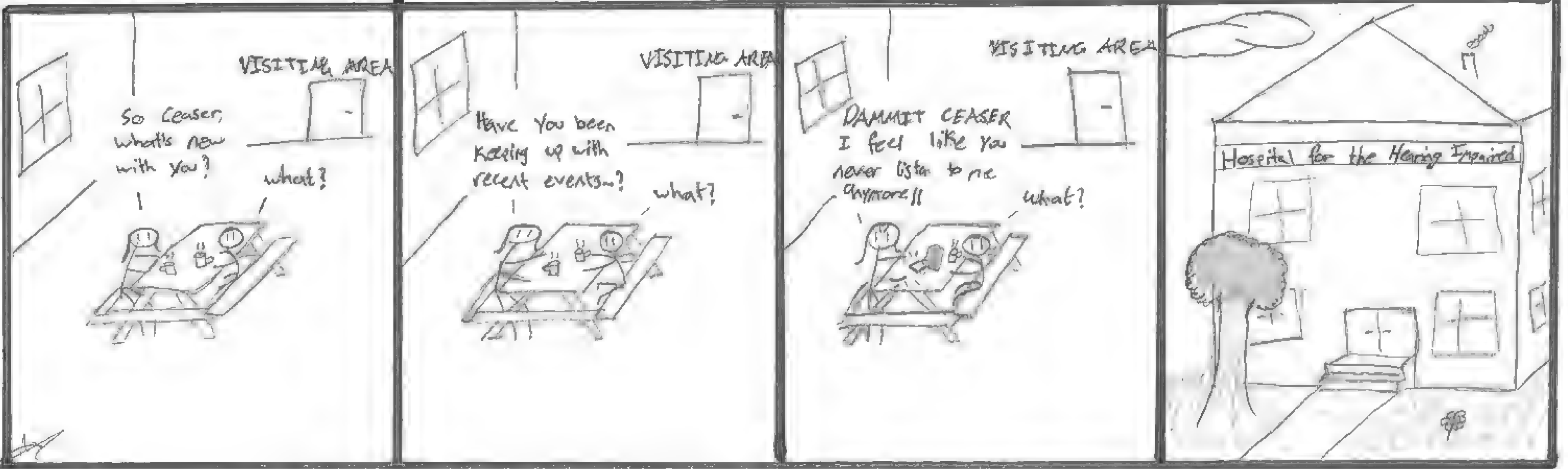
MODERN ASIAN FAMILY BY STEFANO JUN



MEDIOCRE AT BEST BY JIMMY NGUYEN



SATURDAY NIGHT CEASER BY MOSTAFA MAHFOUZ

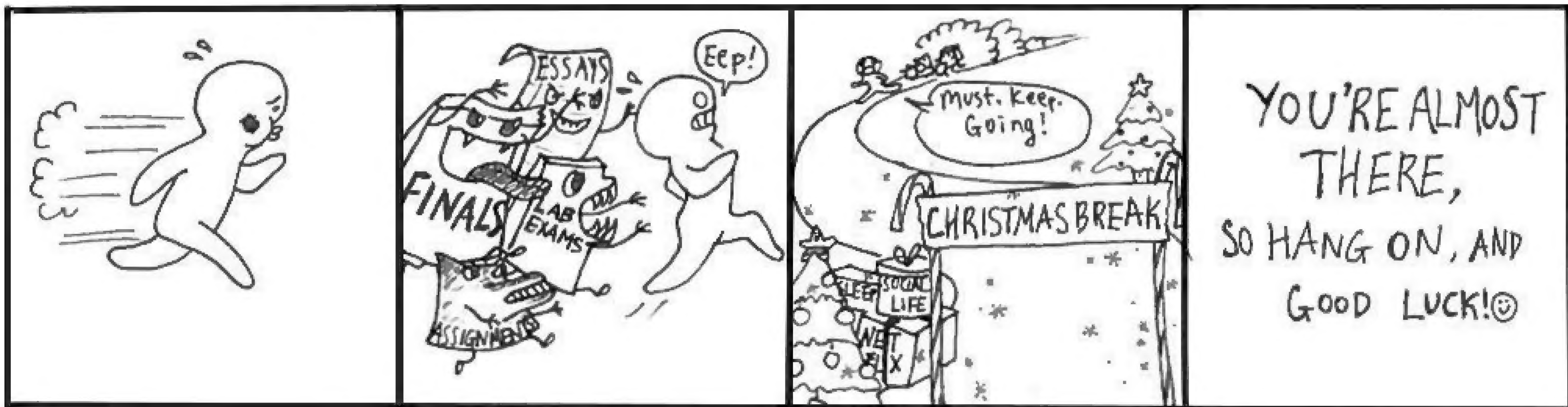


BOOMERS WISE WORDS BY NIKHIL SHAH

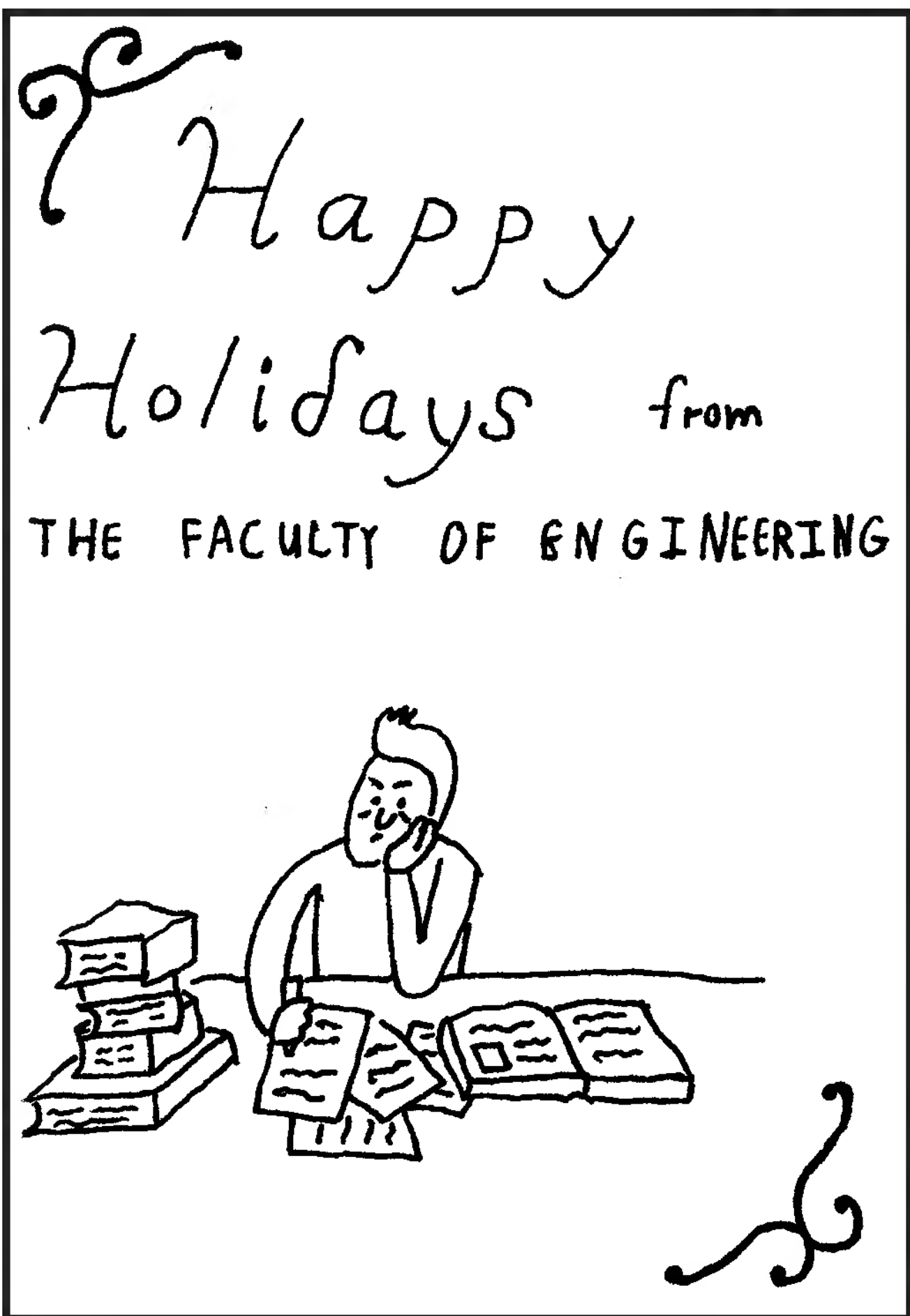




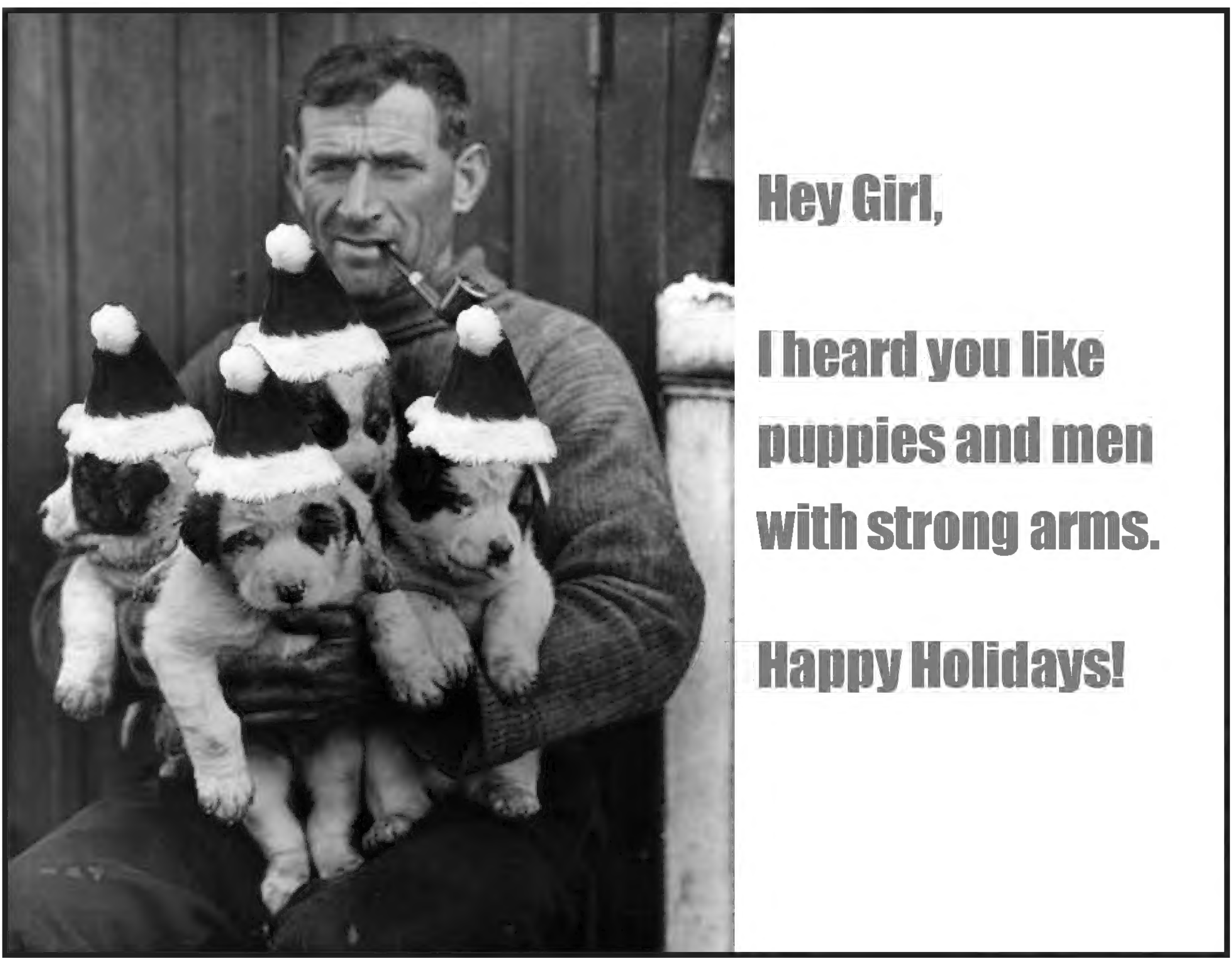
DEADLINE PT.4 BY SHELLEY TIAN



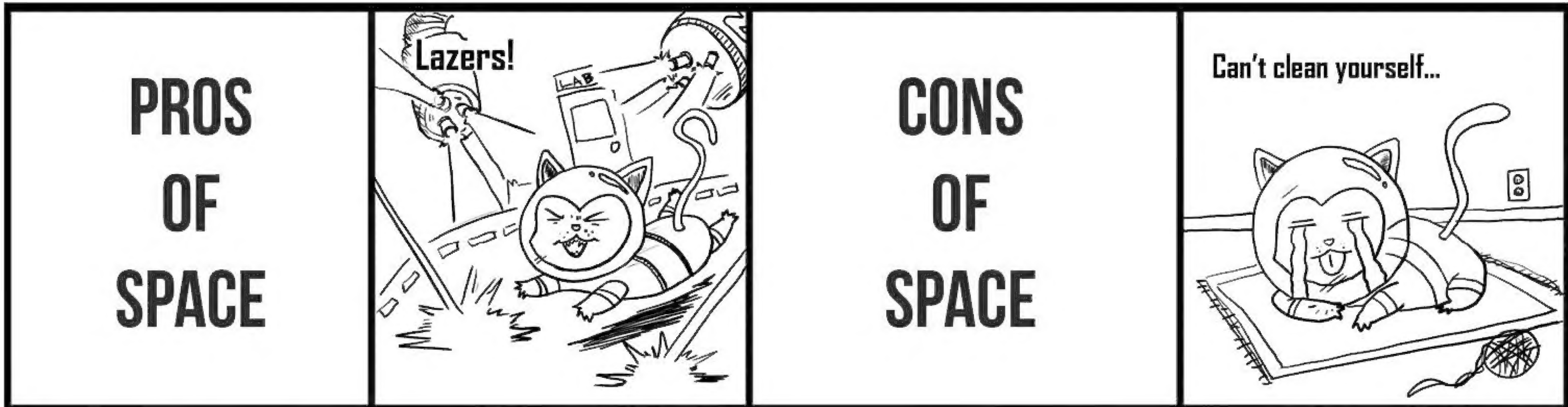
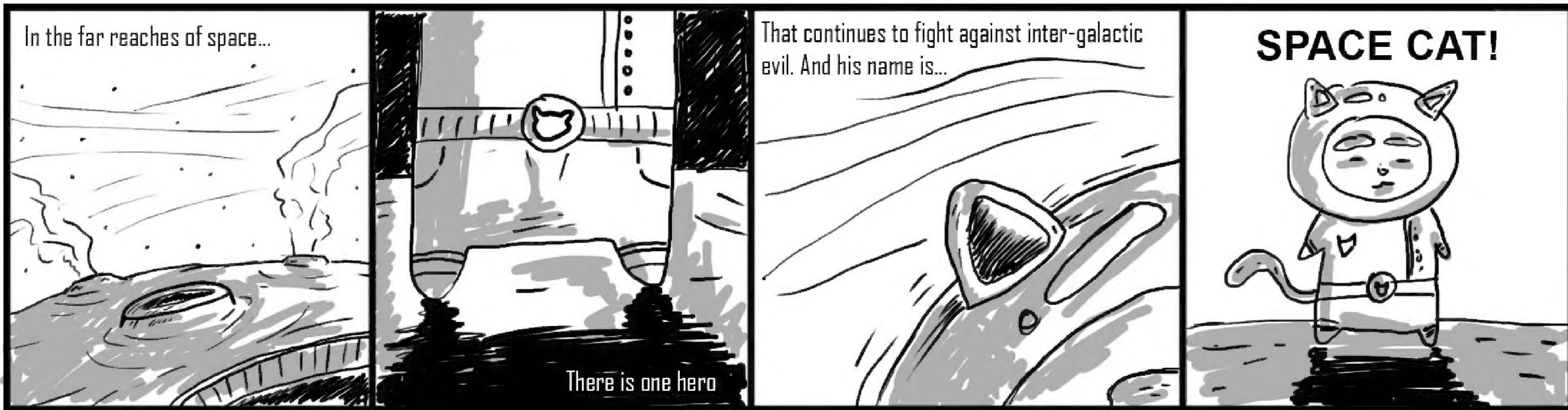
DESKTOP INK BY DEREK SHULTZ



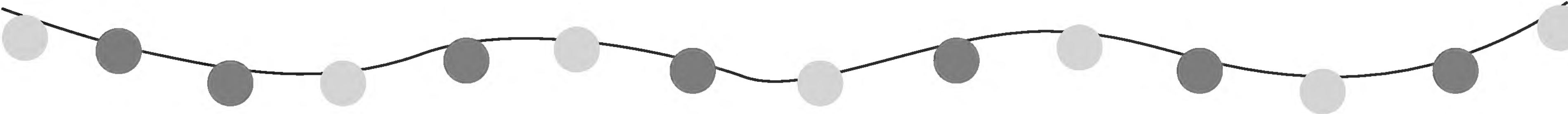
HEY GIRL BY MR T. CREAM



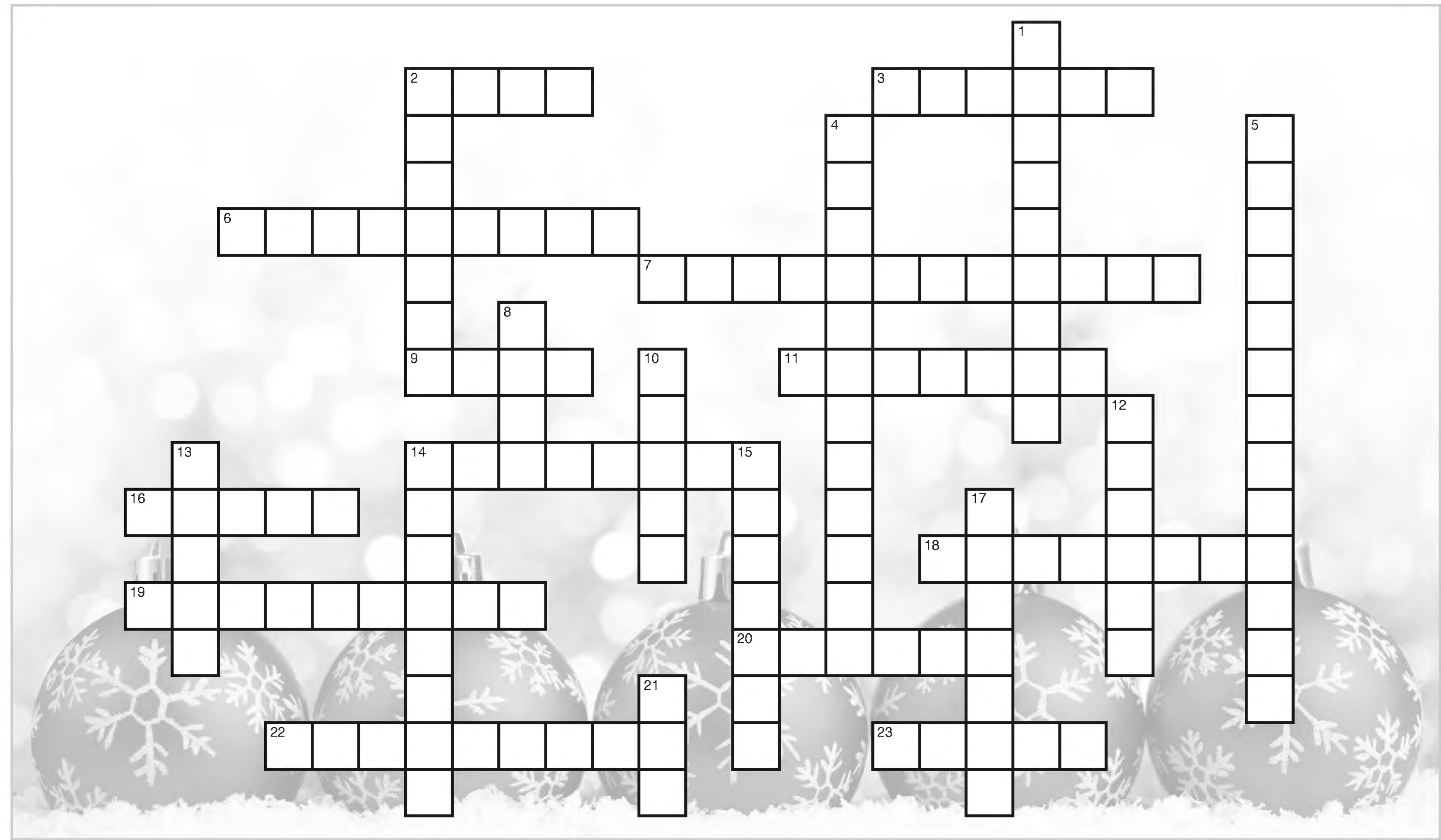
SPACE CAT BY NIL LASQUETY







# Holiday Crossword



ACROSS

- 2. Never look at \_\_\_\_ in the mouth
- 3. That green asshole who hates Christmas
- 6. Canada’s other Black Friday
- 7. Merry christmas, ya \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Which Baldwin brother wants you to taste his schweddy balls
- 11. Spin this to get presents
- 14. I hate when the malls are filled with \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. What does an angel get every time a bell rings?
- 18. The “comedy” king of shitty Christmas movies
- 19. I’m Mister Green Christmas, I’m Mister Sun, I’m Mister Heat Blister, I’m Mister Hundred and One, They call me \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. All I want for Christmas is her voice
- 22. Le’ts meet up and bang under the \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. What is buddy the elf’s favourite thing to put on spaghetti?

DOWN

- 1. I’m Mister White Christmas, I’m Mister Snow, I’m Mister Icicle, I’m Mister Ten Below, Friends call me \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. She got run over by a reindeer
- 3. Yippee ki yay, \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. The people behind Santa Claus
- 5. The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to \_\_\_\_
- 6. I’d let this National Lampoon actor chase me around the Christmas tree
- 7. Kanye celebrated Christmas in \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Who is the sluttiest reindeer?
- 9. What do you roast on an open fire?
- 10. Do you want to build a \_\_\_\_\_?
- 11. Statistically, the greatest Christmas movie ever
- 12. Which dirty Edmonton landmark was Christmas in Wonderland filmed at?





# FINAL EXAMS

# GATEWAY HOROSCOPES

BY CAM LEWIS

Aries



Much to your surprise, your final exam will actually just be a crossword puzzle.

Taurus



Order a pizza to your exam.

Gemini



Rather than studying, spend all of your time figuring out exactly what mark you need on your final exam to get a B- in the class.

Cancer



Your exam will do you, and do really well.

Leo



Don't be afraid to pull out your phone and text your friends during your exam. Your professor will be very impressed by your overwhelming popularity.

Virgo



The serpent that did sting thy father's life now wears his crown.

Libra



On one of your exams, you'll have to list and properly define every single gender on facebook, otherwise you'll fail for being insensitive.

Scorpio



Go outside and play some catch with your dad, before he turns into a Dodge Grand Caravan.

Sagittarius



It'll be advantageous for you to learn American Sign Language.

Capricorn



Cutting off both of your arms will help you achieve great things in your final exams.

Aquarius



$$\Delta t' = \frac{\Delta t}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Pisces



You'll probably fail. You're stupid.

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PRESENTS

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